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| Reference | IOR/R/15/2/132 |
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| Holding Institution | British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers |
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About this record

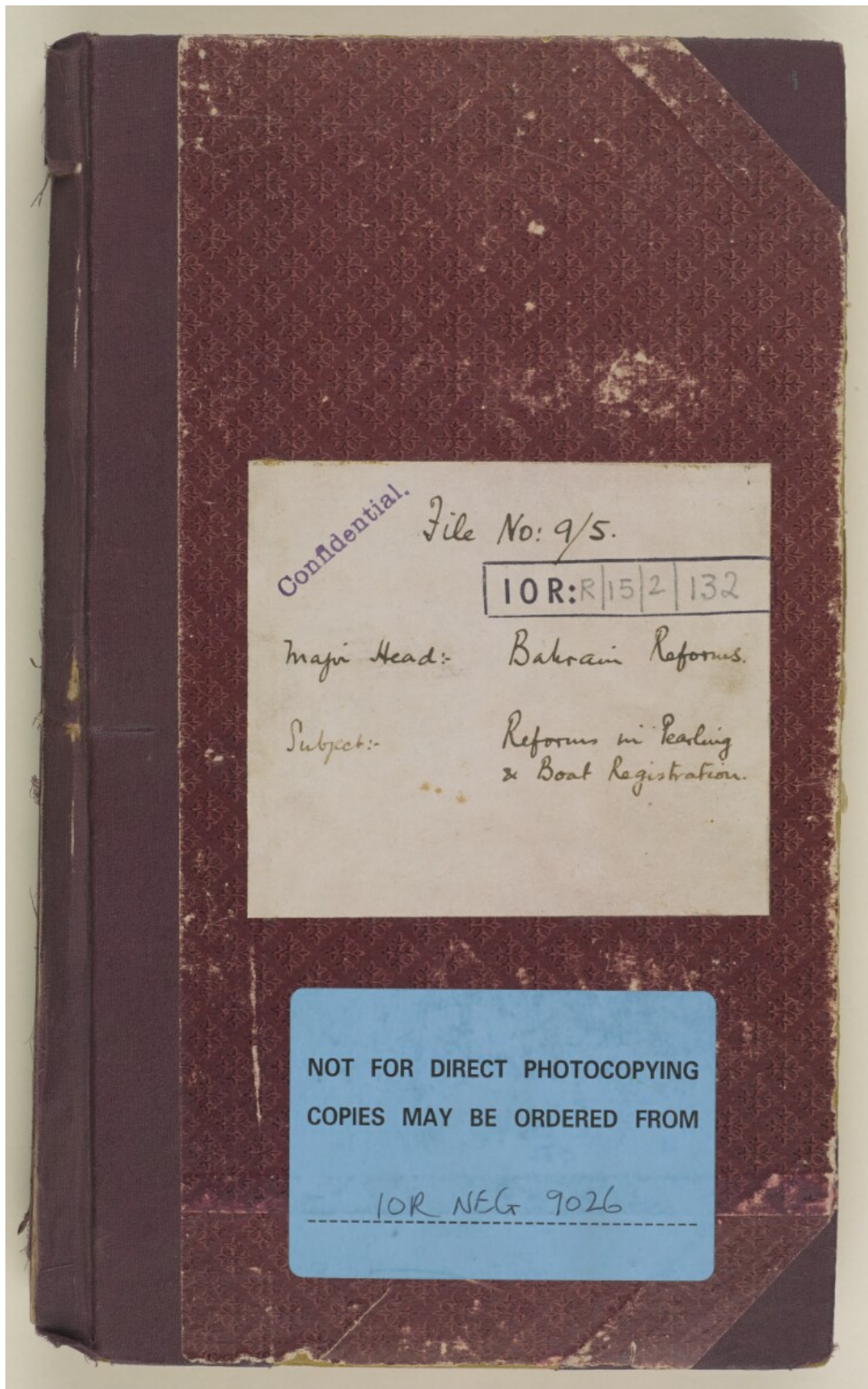
The volume contains correspondence and reports relating to proposed reforms of the pearling industry in Bahrain. The majority of the correspondence takes place between the Bahrain Political Agent (Clive Day, who was the principle architect of the pearling industry reforms, and served from 1921 to 1926, superseded by Cyril Barrett), the Political Resident or his secretary, and the advisor to the Bahrain Government, Charles Belgrave.

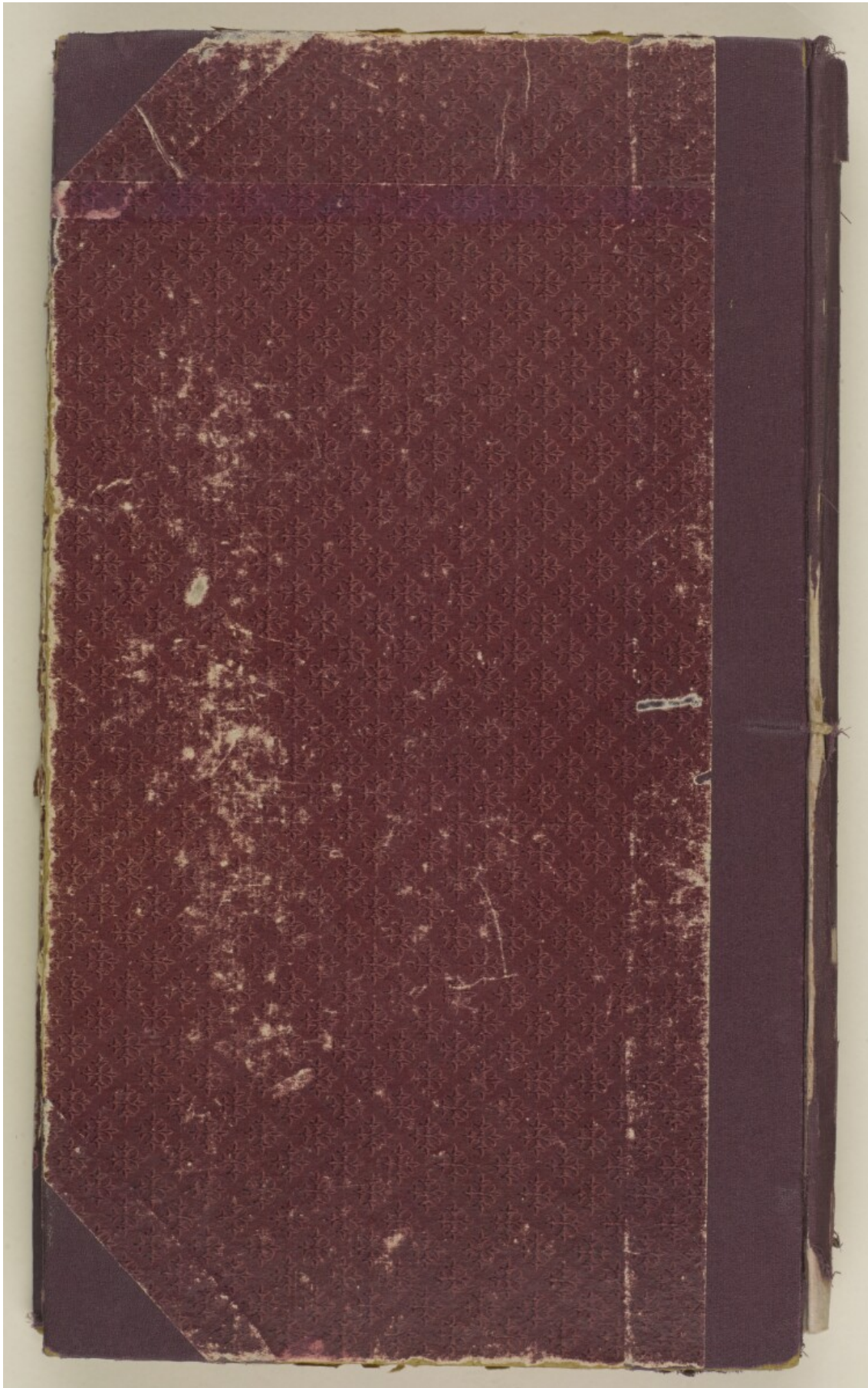
The reforms proposed, and which are discussed at length throughout the volume include:

- Economic reforms, with particular attention given to shares of the profits paid to divers, and the allowances paid to divers, and interest on their debts, through the *Salifeh* court. This aspect of the reforms was designed to reduce the state of debt slavery that many divers existed in towards their boat masters (*nakhudas*);
- The introduction of accounts books for all pearl divers;
- Boat registration and pearl fishing licenses;
- The introduction of a hospital boat intended to patrol the pearling banks, with medical staff on board who are capable of providing medical attention to pearl divers as required;
- The advantages and disadvantages of permitting pearl merchants to use motor launches to reach the pearling boats, the use of which would place some merchants at an advantage over those travelling under sail power.

Items of note in the file include:

- A report entitled 'The Pearl Industry. Bahrain', written by Charles Belgrave, undated but probably 1928 (folios 3-23);
- Letters from the Director of the Bahrain Customs House to the Political Agency (1924), giving figures for the numbers of boats registered and pearling licenses issued, and the income generated (folios 51, 71, 84);
- A original petition in Arabic, signed by numerous *nakhudas* , complaining of the reforms, dated 26 September 1925 (folio 123, English translation on folios 124-26);
- A letter written by Barrett to Horner (the Secretary to the Political Resident), dated 1 January 1927, writing of disturbances in Manama, caused by a crowd of two-hundred pearl divers who are unhappy with reductions in their allowances (folios 149-52);



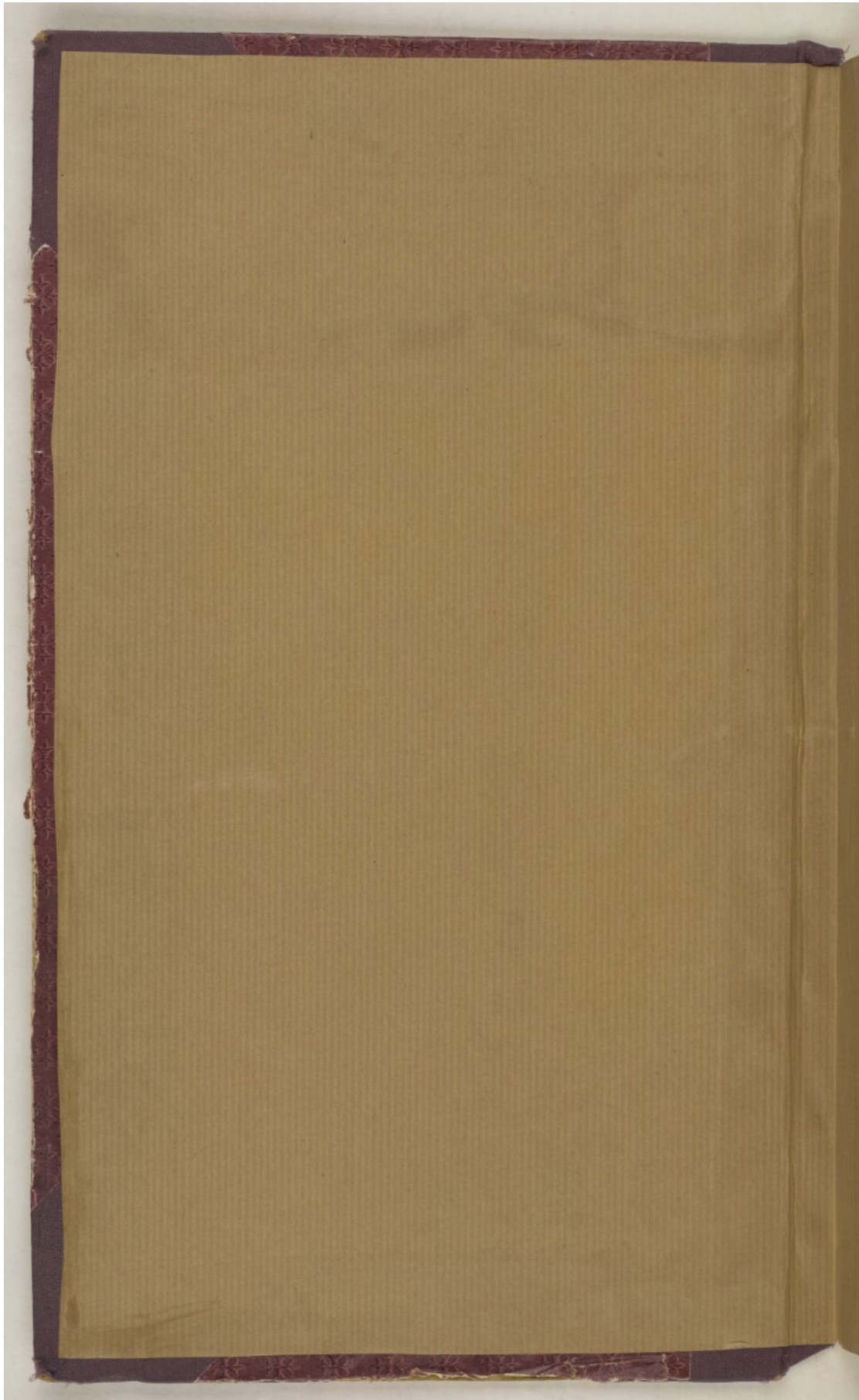


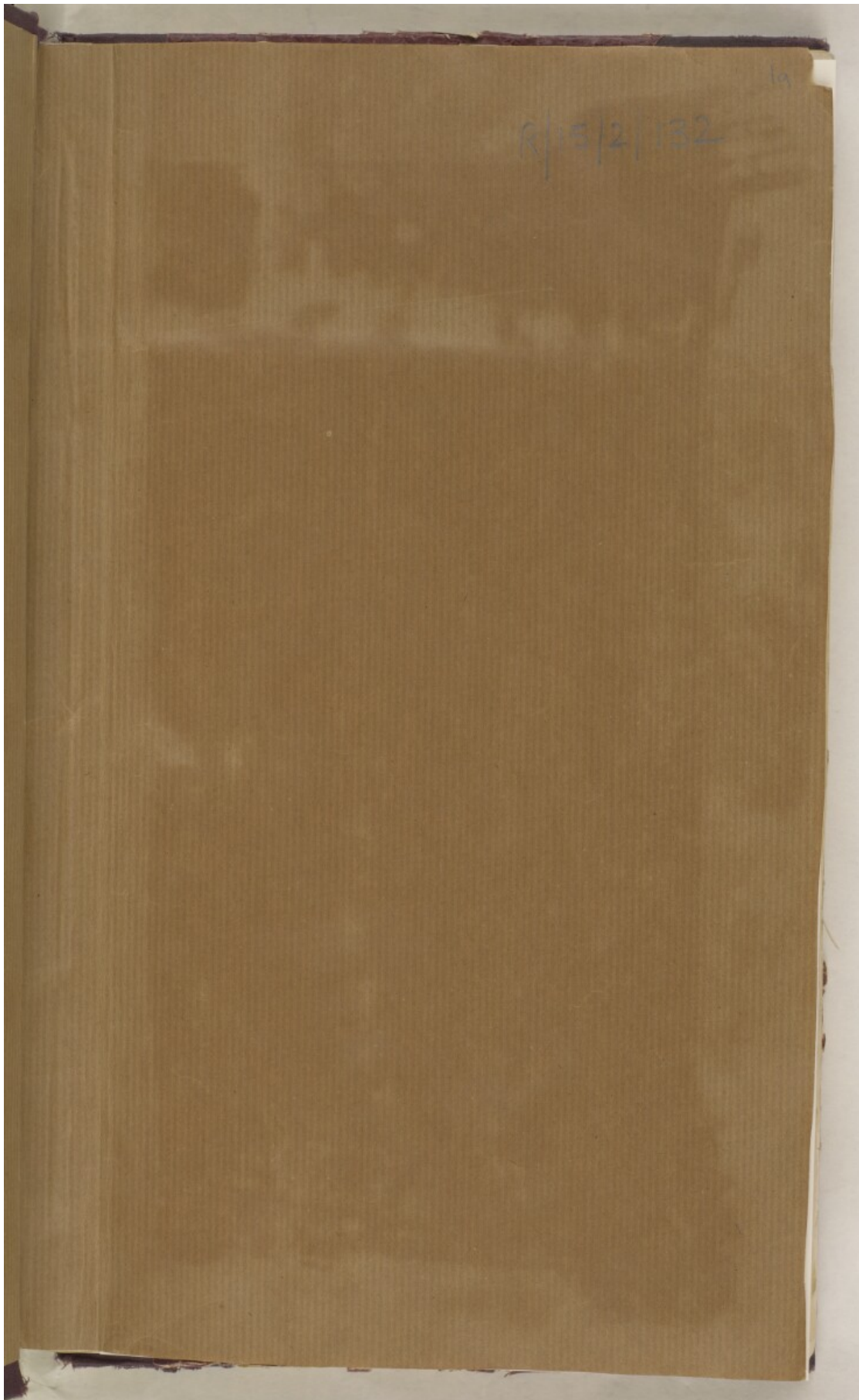


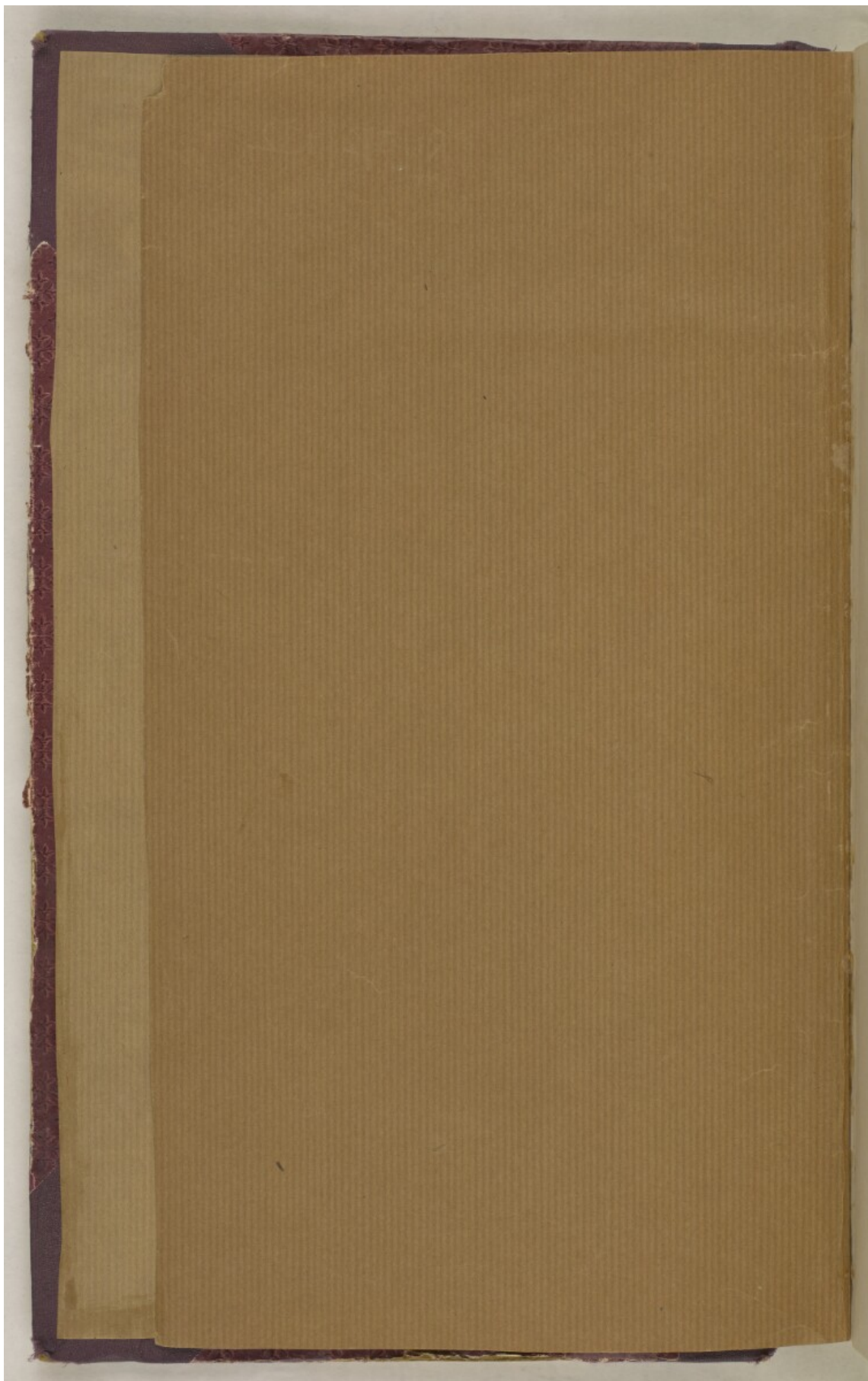


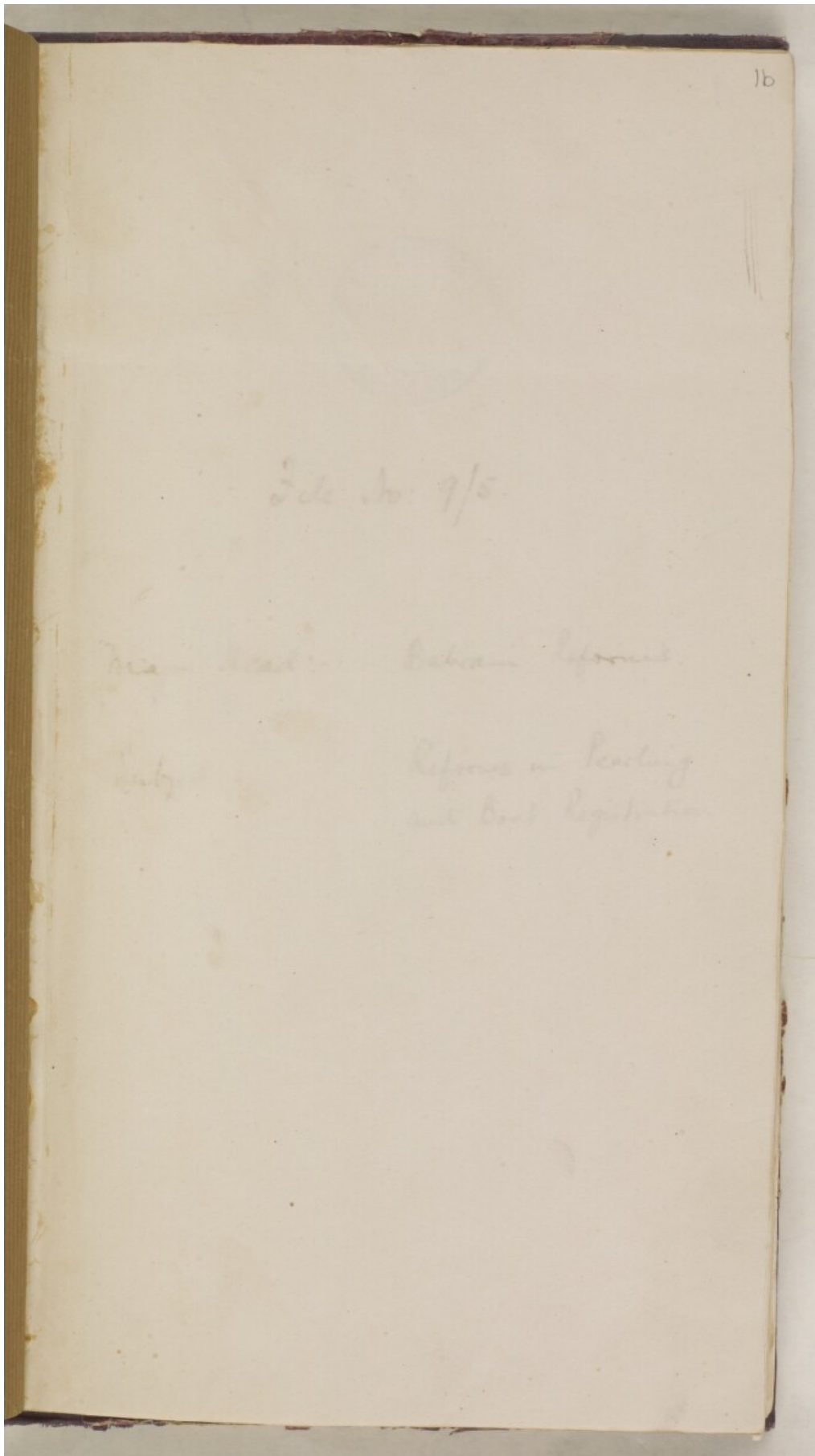


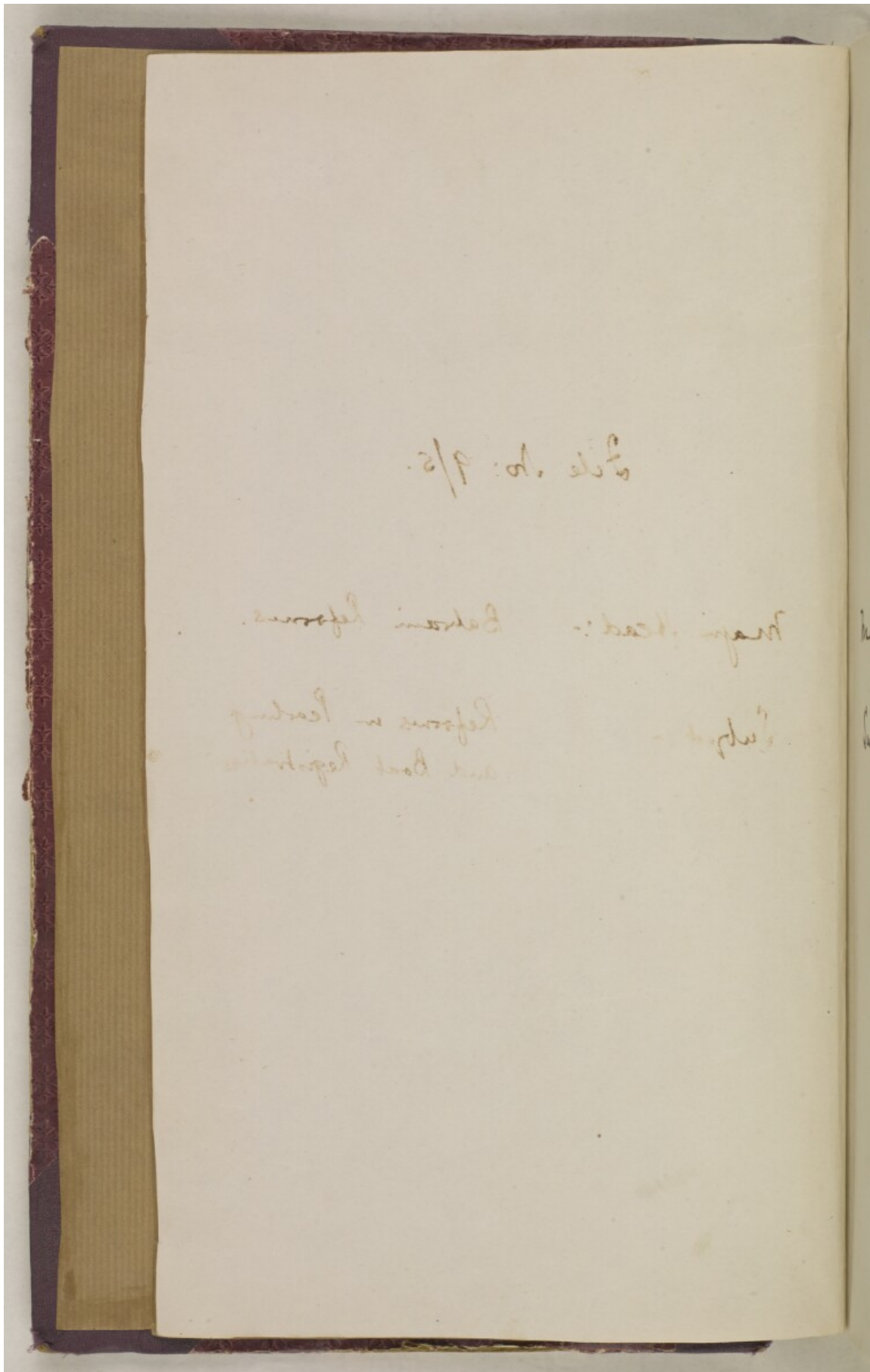


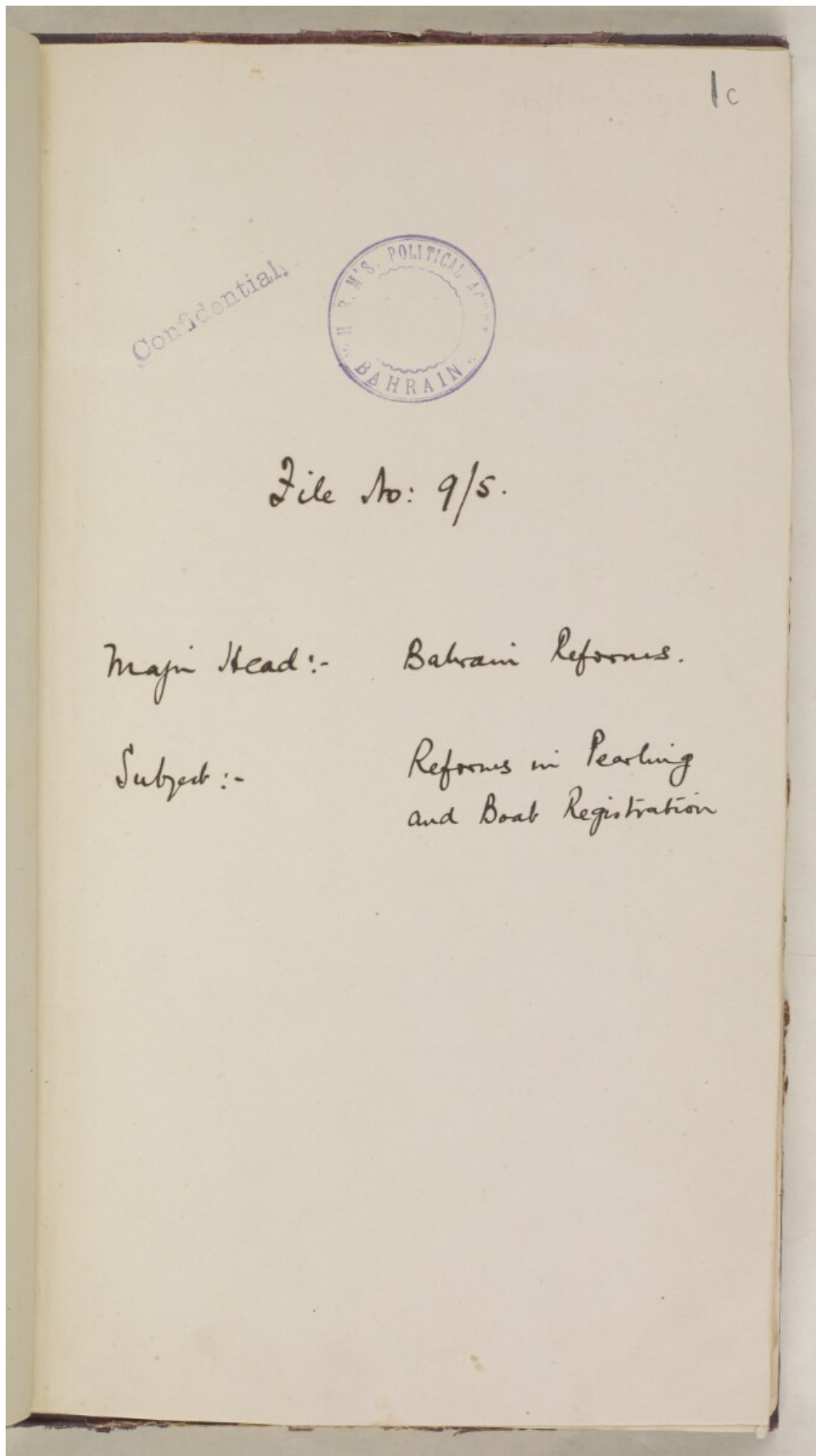


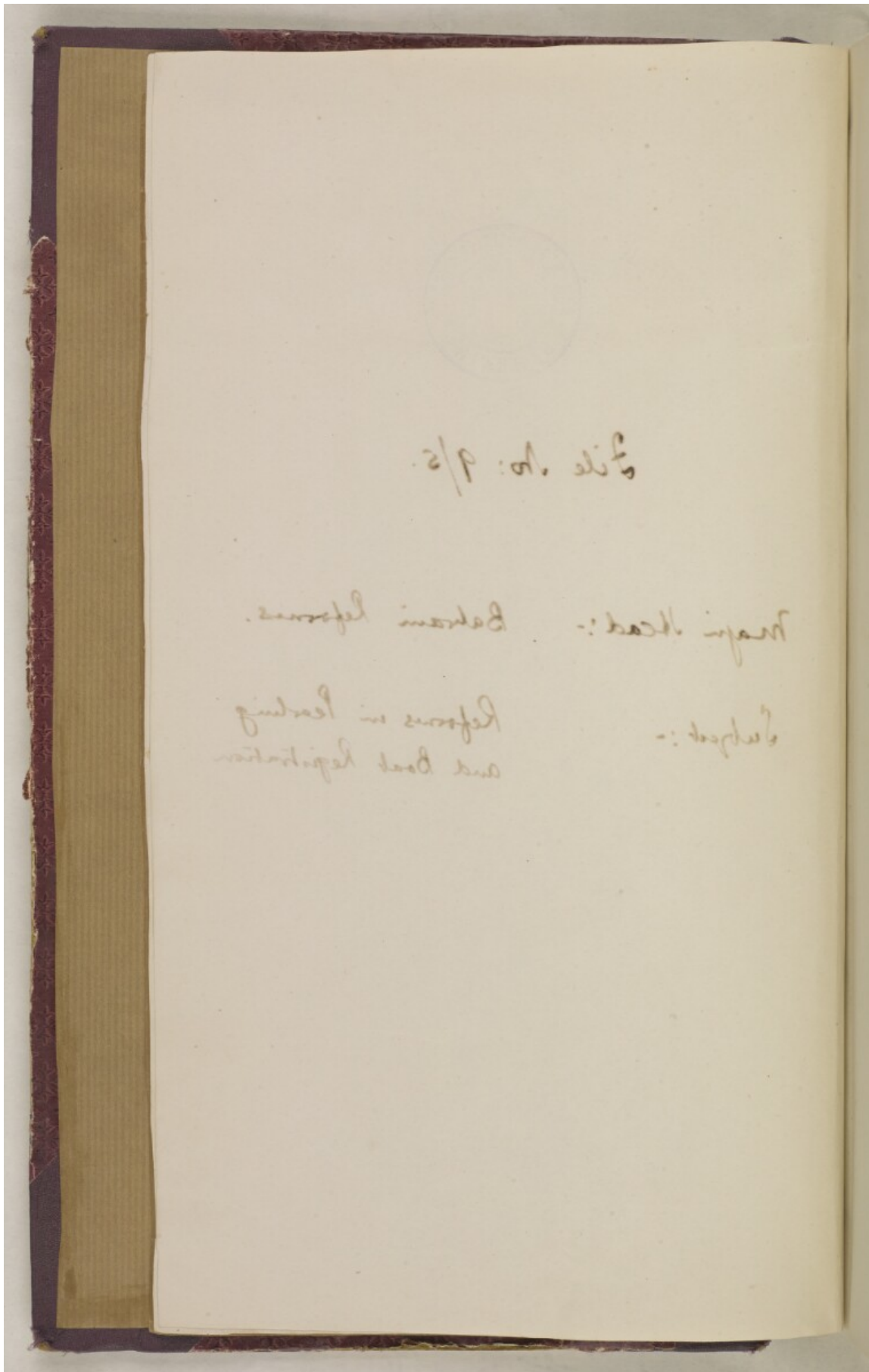


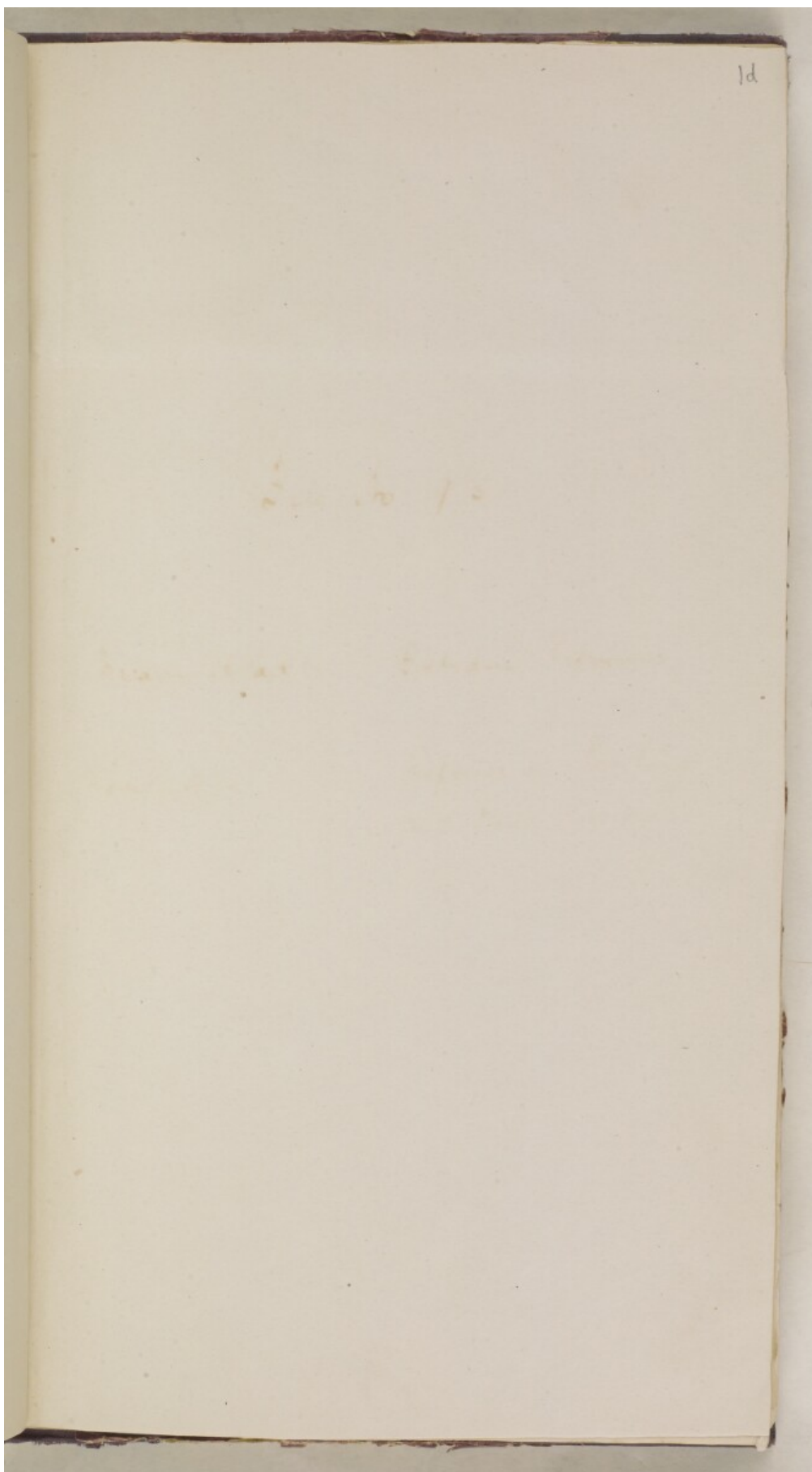


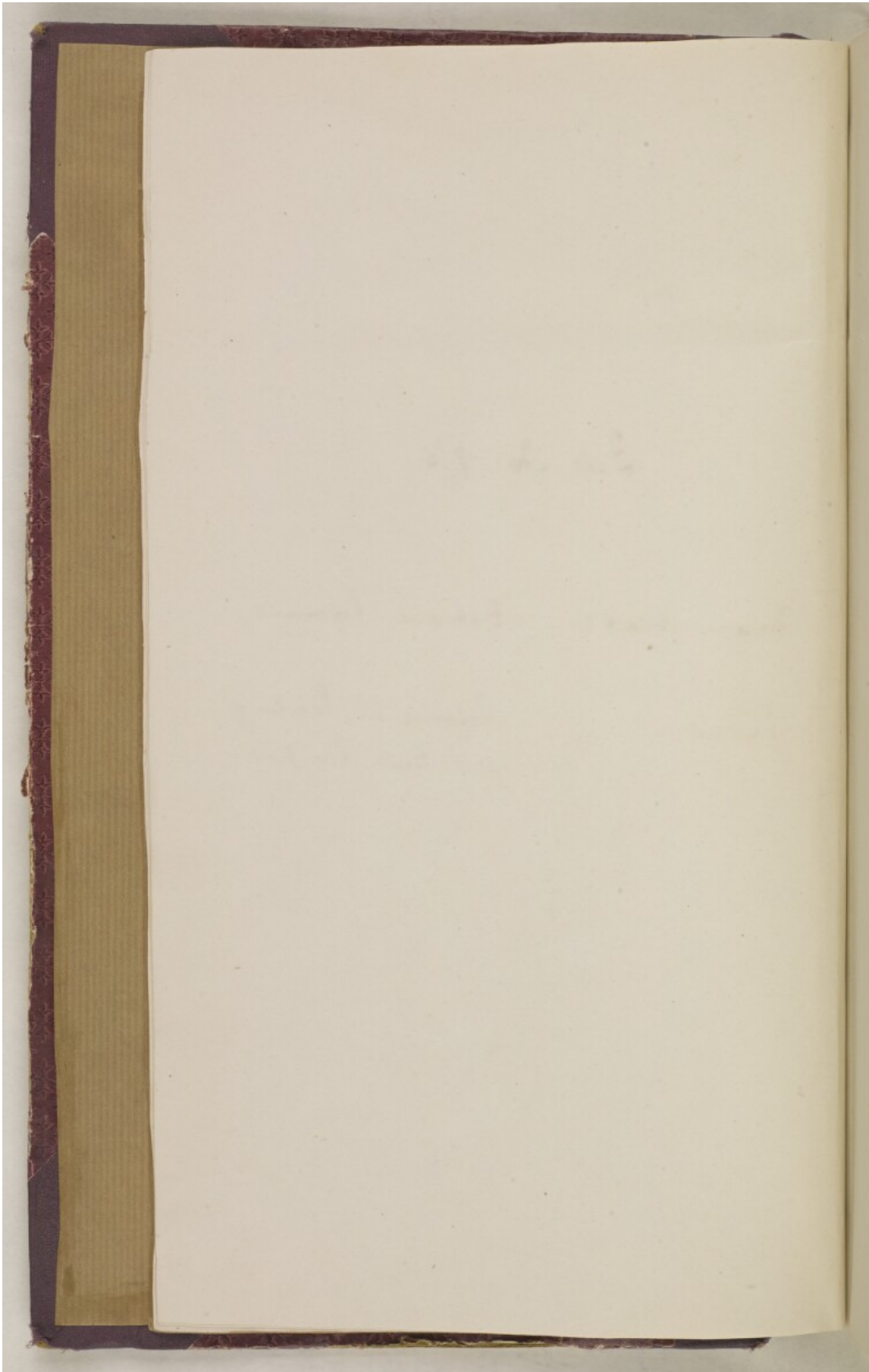


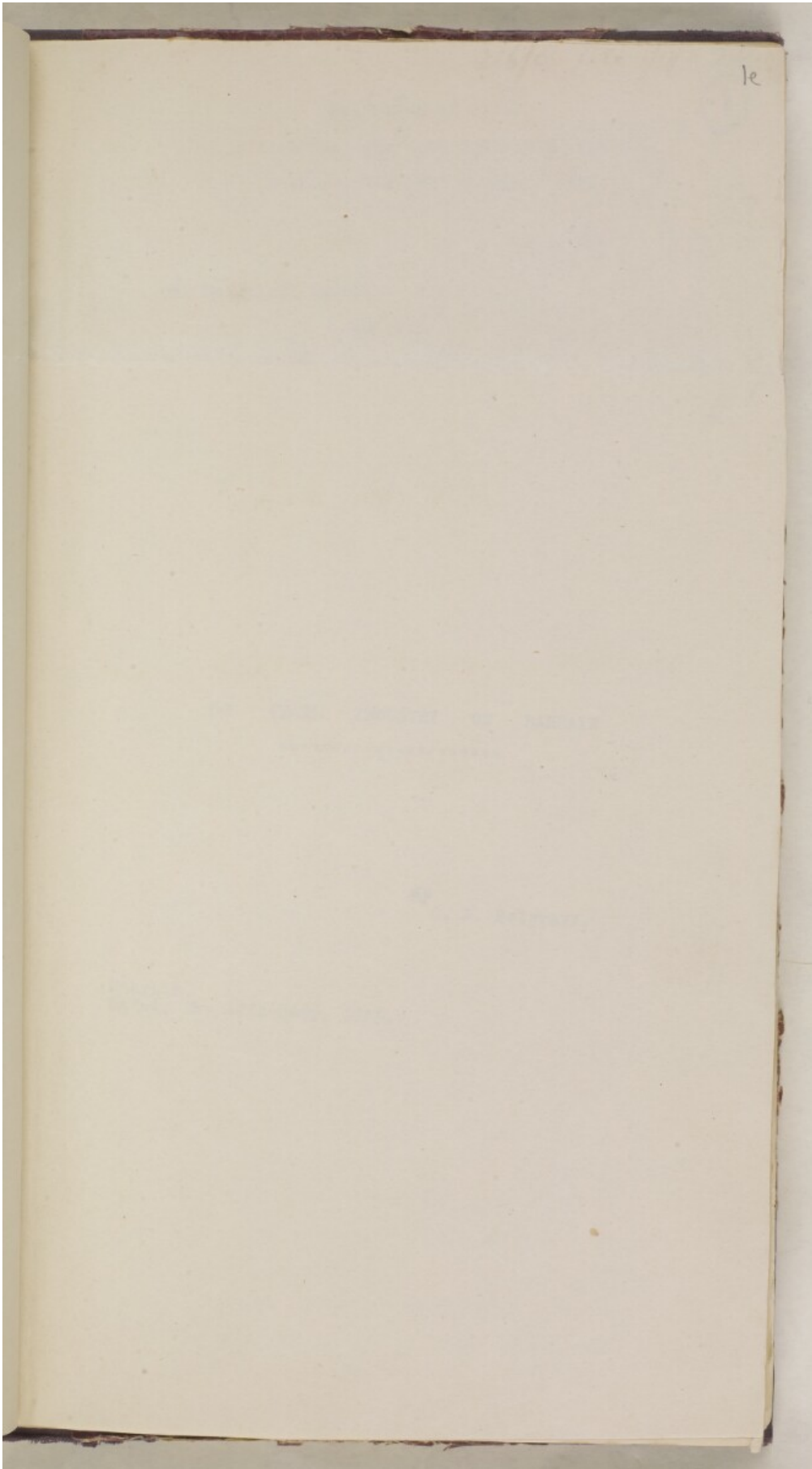


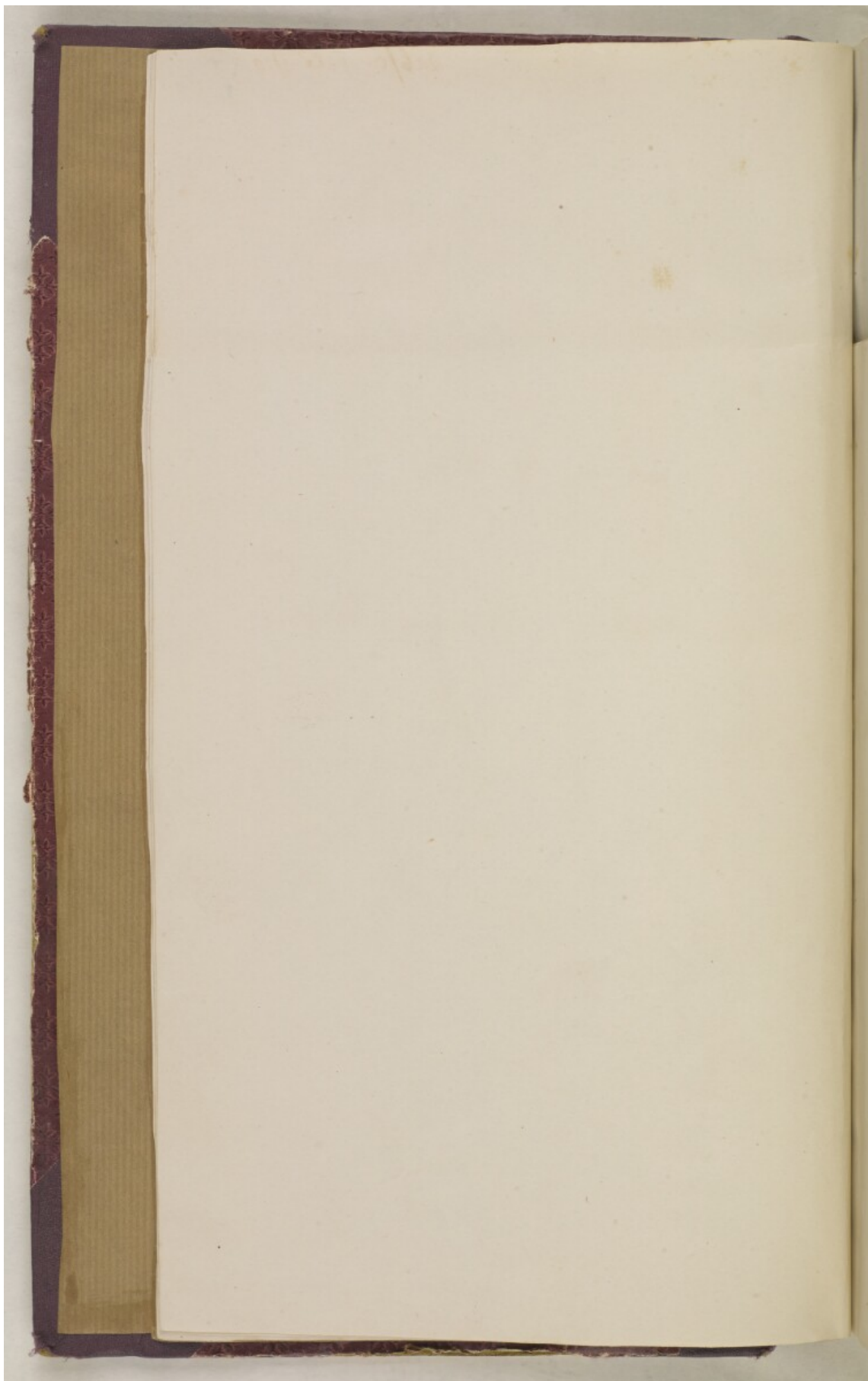


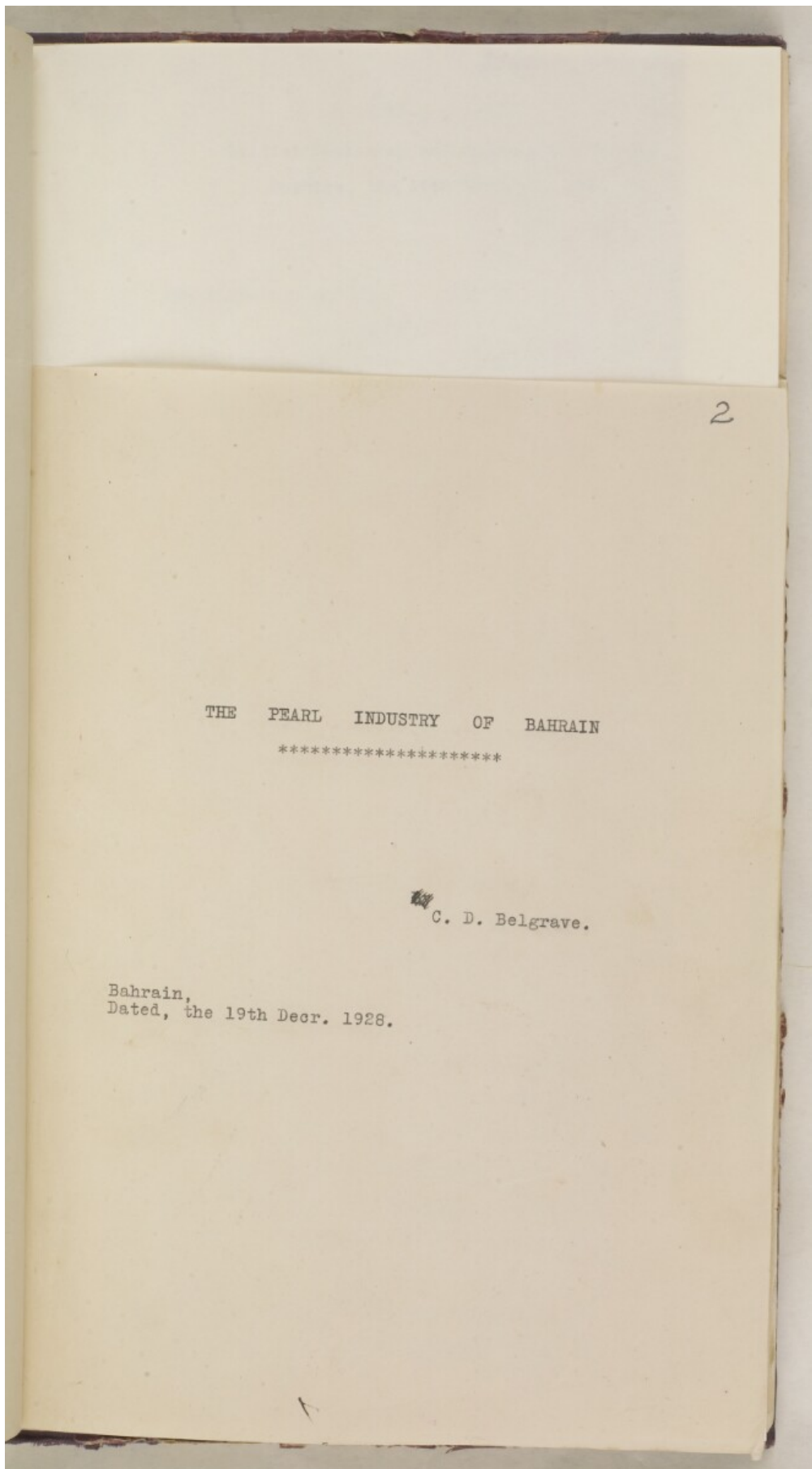


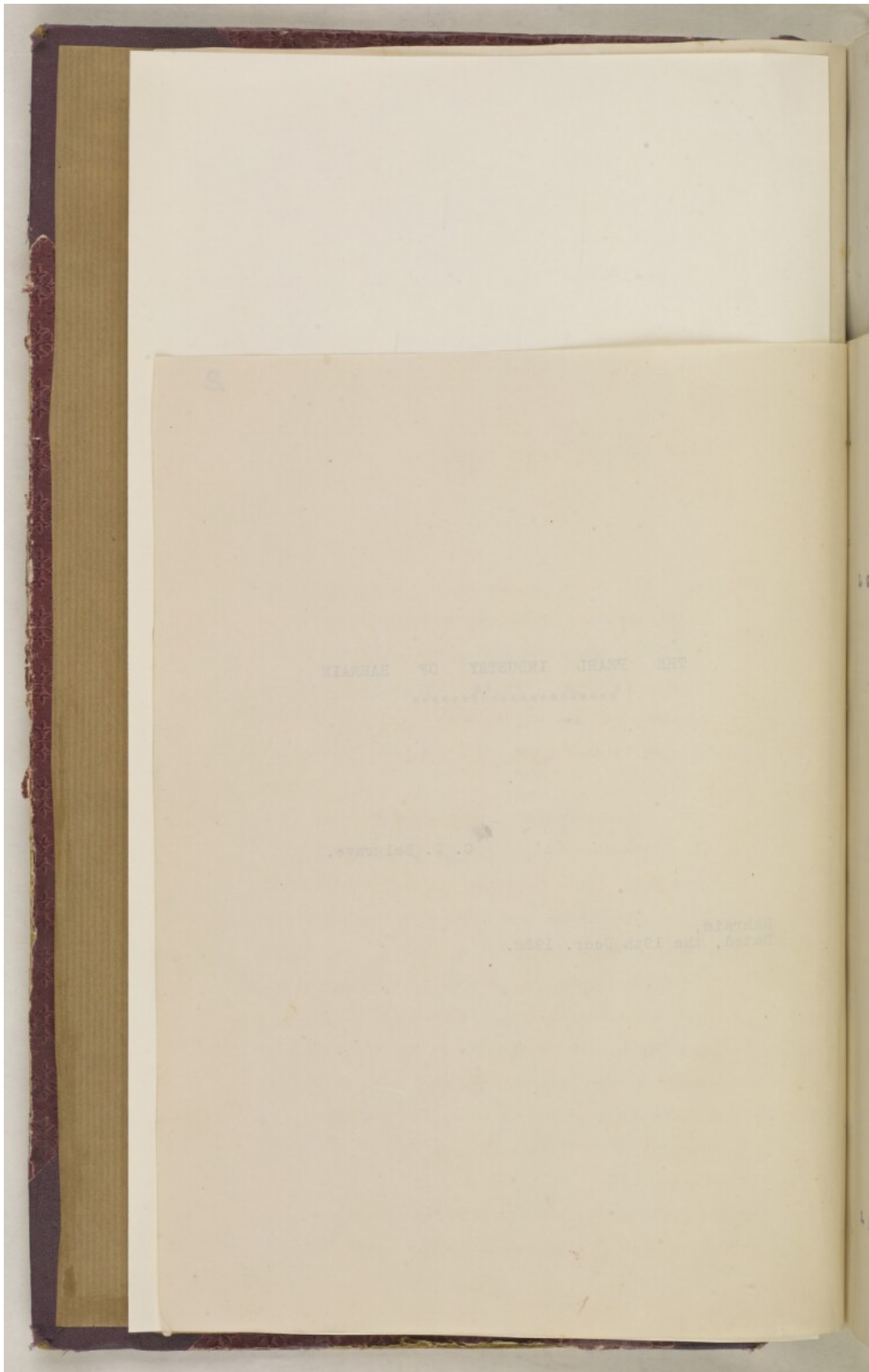














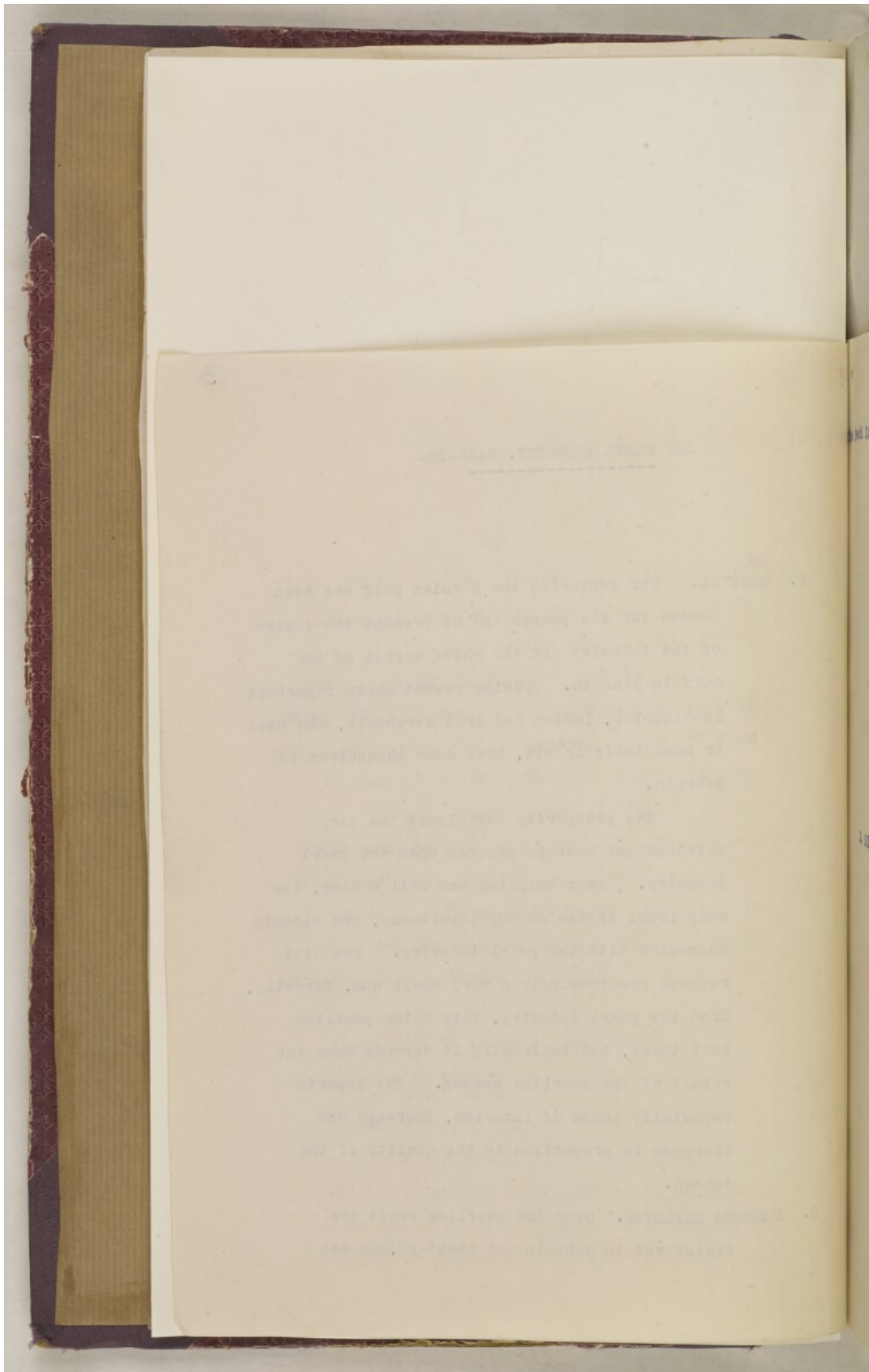
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THE PEARL INDUSTRY. BAHRAIN.

1. GENERAL. For centuries the Persian Gulf has been famous for its pearls and at present the centre of the industry and the chief market of the Gulf is Bahrain. During recent years important Continental, Indian and Arab merchants, who used to send their Agents, have come themselves to Bahrain.

The prosperity and almost the very existence of Bahrain depends upon the Pearl industry. Boat building and sail making, the only local trades of any importance, are closely connected with the pearl industry. The State revenue receives only a very small sum, directly, from the pearl industry, this being pearling boat taxes, but indirectly it depends upon the result of the pearling season. The imports especially those of luxuries, increase and decrease in proportion to the quality of the season.

2. NUMBERS EMPLOYED. Over 500 pearling craft are registered in Bahrain and about 15,000 men





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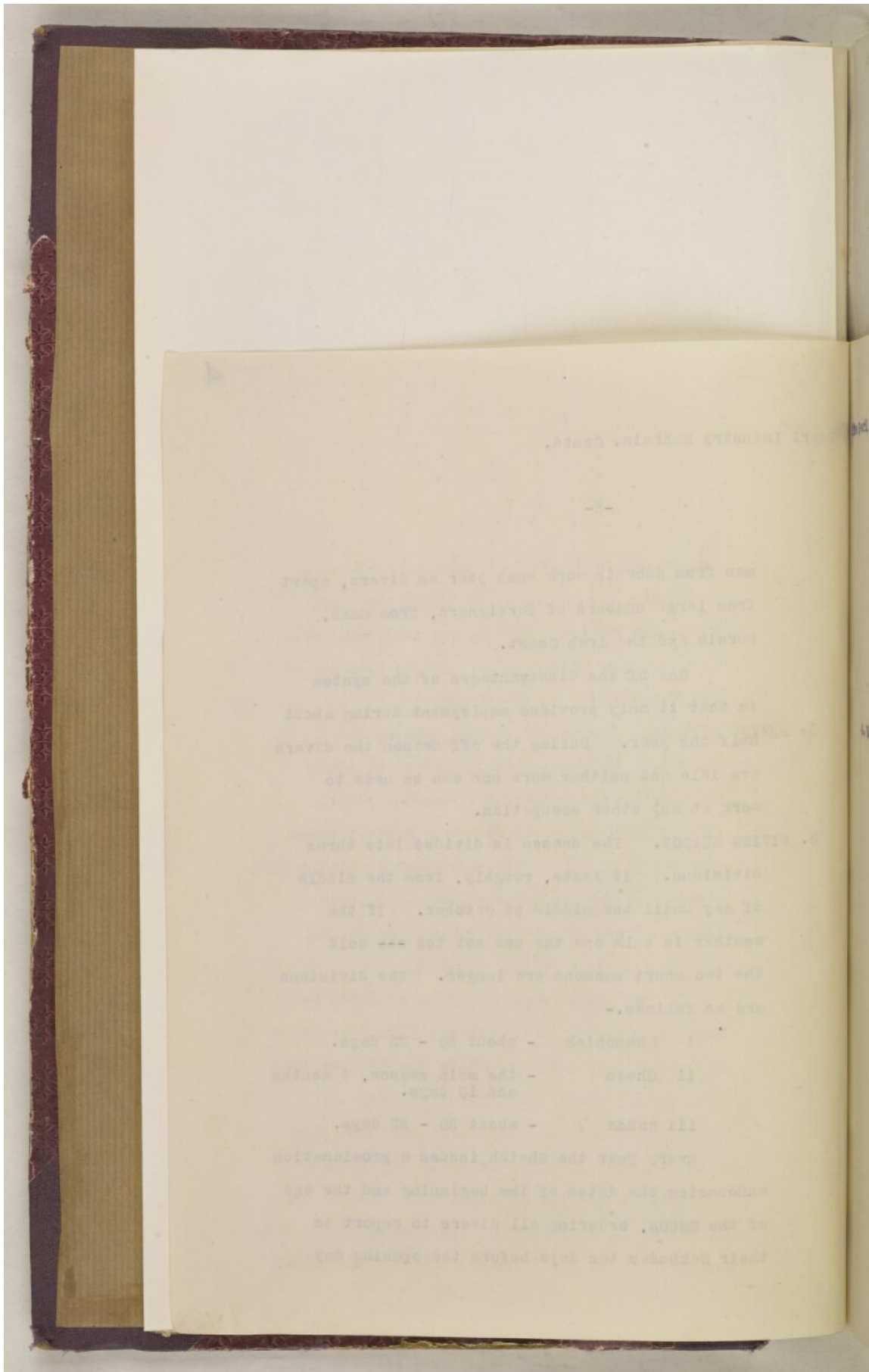
men from Bahrain work each year as divers, apart from large numbers of foreigners, from Oman, Persia and the Arab Coast.

One of the disadvantages of the system is that it only provides employment during about half the year. During the off season the divers are idle and neither work nor can be made to work at any other occupation.

3. DIVING SEASON. The season is divided into three divisions. It lasts, roughly, from the middle of May until the middle of October. If the weather is calm and the sea not too ~~ele~~ cold the two short seasons are longer. The divisions are as follows.-

- i Khanchieh - about 20 - 25 days.
- ii Ghooos - the main season, 4 months and 10 days.
- iii Radda - about 20 - 25 days.

Every year the Shaikh issues a proclamation announcing the dates of the beginning and the end of the GHOOS, ordering all divers to report to their Hakhudas ten days before the opening day





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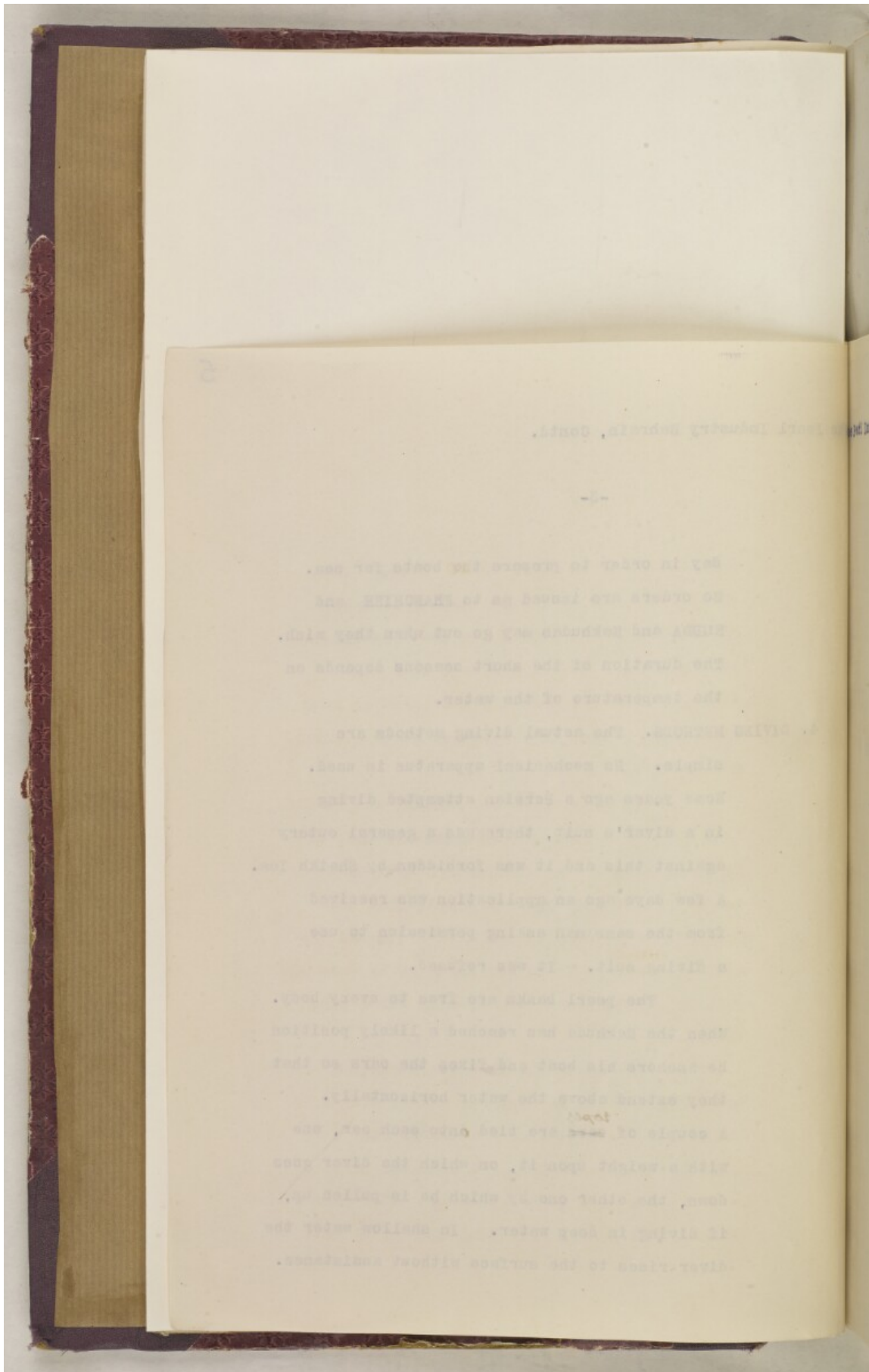
The Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

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day in order to prepare the boats for sea.
No orders are issued as to KMANCHIEH and
RUDDA and Nakhudas may go out when they wish.
The duration of the short seasons depends on
the temperature of the water.

4. DIVING METHODS. The actual diving methods are
simple. No mechanical apparatus is used.
Some years ago a Persian attempted diving
in a diver's suit, there was a general outcry
against this and it was forbidden by Shaikh Isa.
A few days ago an application was received
from the same man asking permission to use
a diving suit. It was refused.

The pearl banks are free to every body.
When the Nakhuda has reached a likely position
he anchors his boat and fixes the oars so that
they extend above the water horizontally.
A couple of ^{ropes} ~~oars~~ are tied onto each oar, one
with a weight upon it, on which the diver goes
down, the other one by which he is pulled up,
if diving in deep water. In shallow water the
diver rises to the surface without assistance.





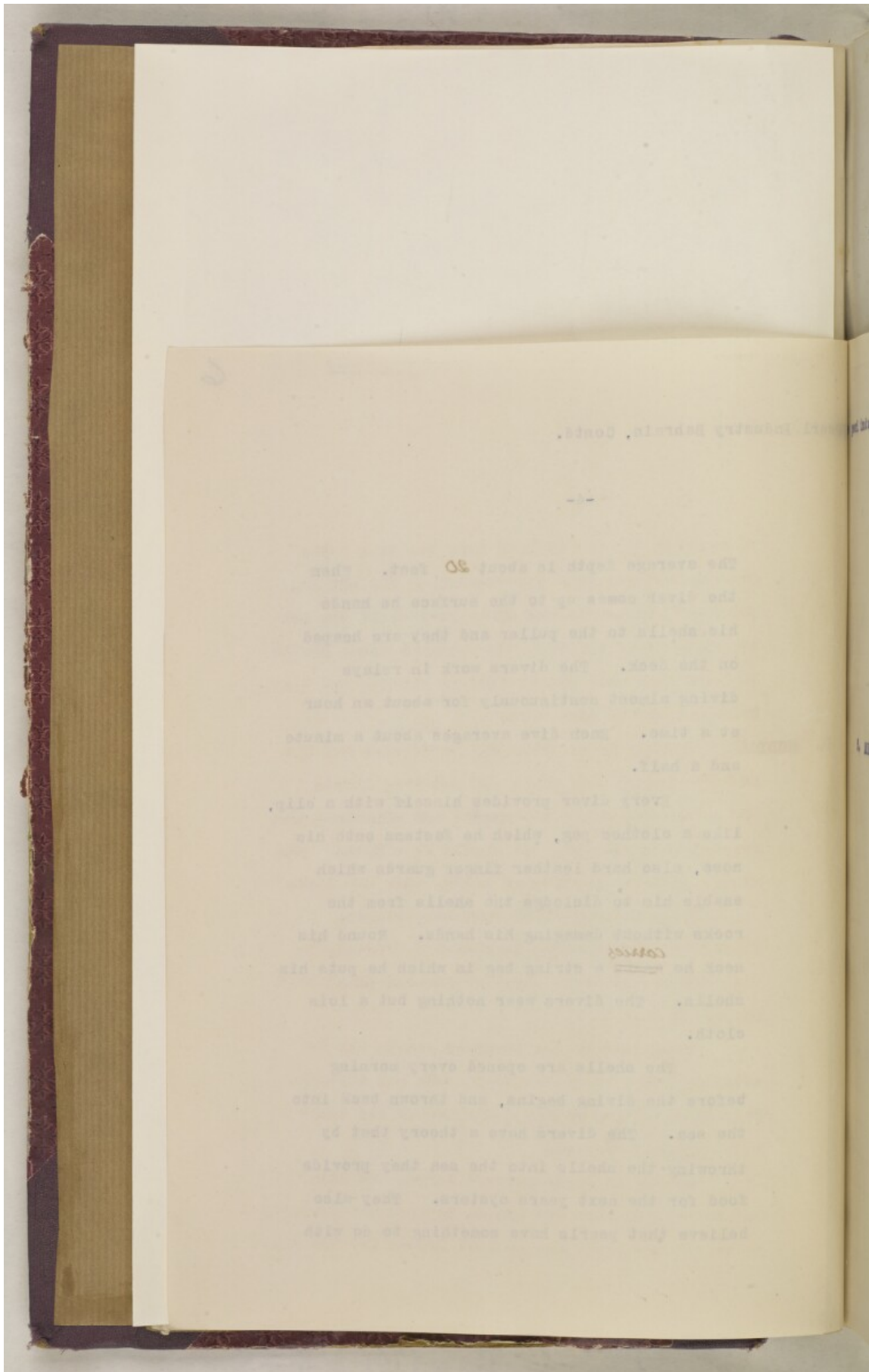
Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

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The average depth is about 20 feet. When the diver comes up to the surface he hands his shells to the puller and they are heaped on the deck. The divers work in relays diving almost continuously for about an hour at a time. Each dive averages about a minute and a half.

Every diver provides himself with a clip, like a clothes peg, which he fastens onto his nose, also hard leather finger guards which enable him to dislodge the shells from the rocks without damaging his hands. Round his neck he ^{carries} ~~wears~~ a string bag in which he puts his shells. The divers wear nothing but a loin cloth.

The shells are opened every morning before the diving begins, and thrown back into the sea. The divers have a theory that by throwing the shells into the sea they provide food for the next years oysters. They also believe that pearls have something to do with





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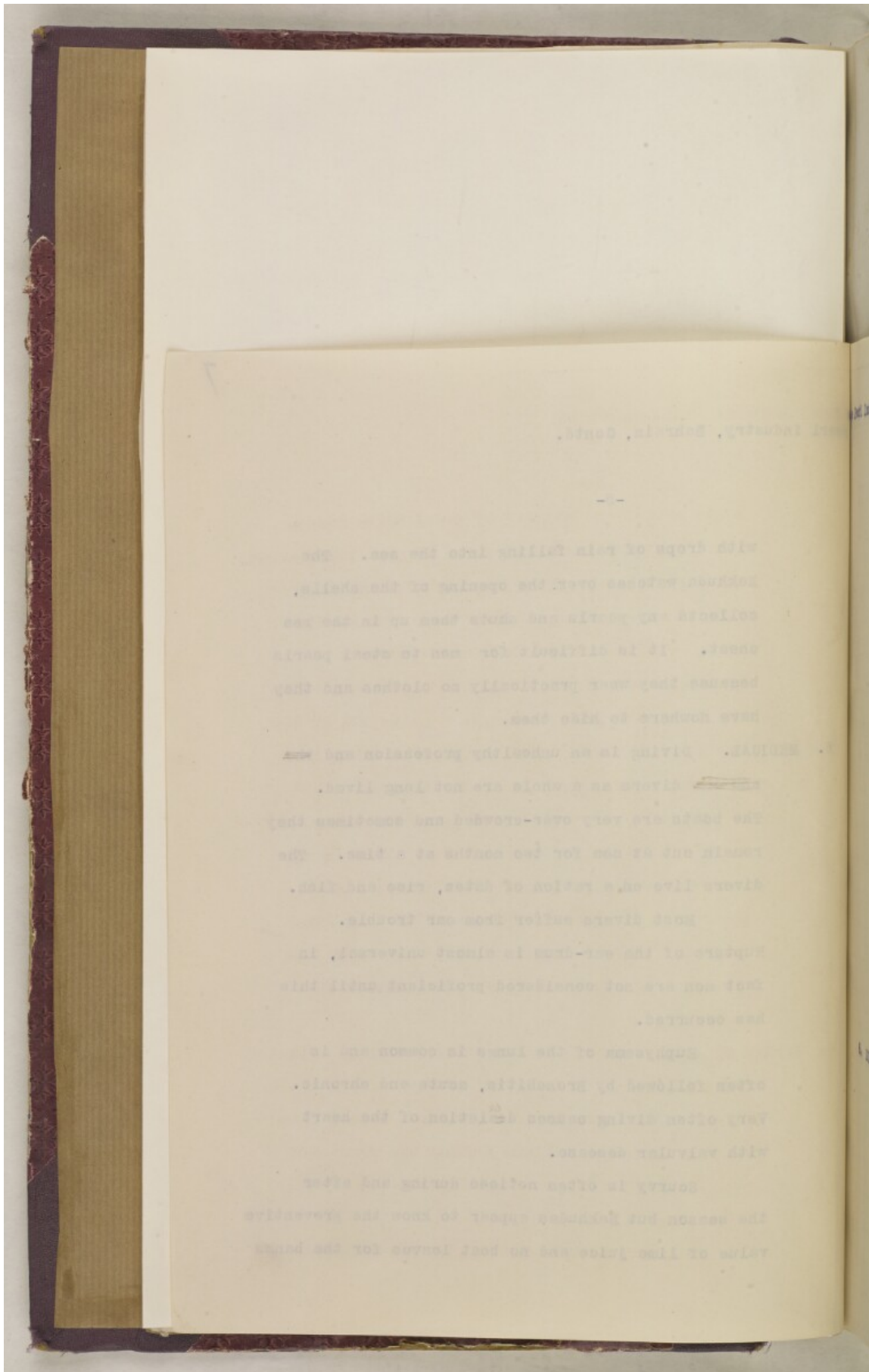
with drops of rain falling into the sea. The Nakhuda watches over the opening of the shells, collects any pearls and shuts them up in the sea chest. It is difficult for men to steal pearls because they wear practically no clothes and they have nowhere to hide them.

5. MEDICAL. Diving is an unhealthy profession and ~~the~~ ~~and the~~ divers as a whole are not long lived. The boats are very over-crowded and sometimes they remain out at sea for two months at a time. The divers live on a ration of dates, rice and fish.

Most divers suffer from ear trouble. Rupture of the ear-drum is almost universal, in fact men are not considered proficient until this has occurred.

Euphysema of the lungs is common and is often followed by Bronchitis, acute and chronic. Very often diving causes ^{ca}decalation of the heart with valvular disease.

Scurvy is often noticed during and after the season but Nakhudas appear to know the preventive value of lime juice and no boat leaves for the banks





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Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

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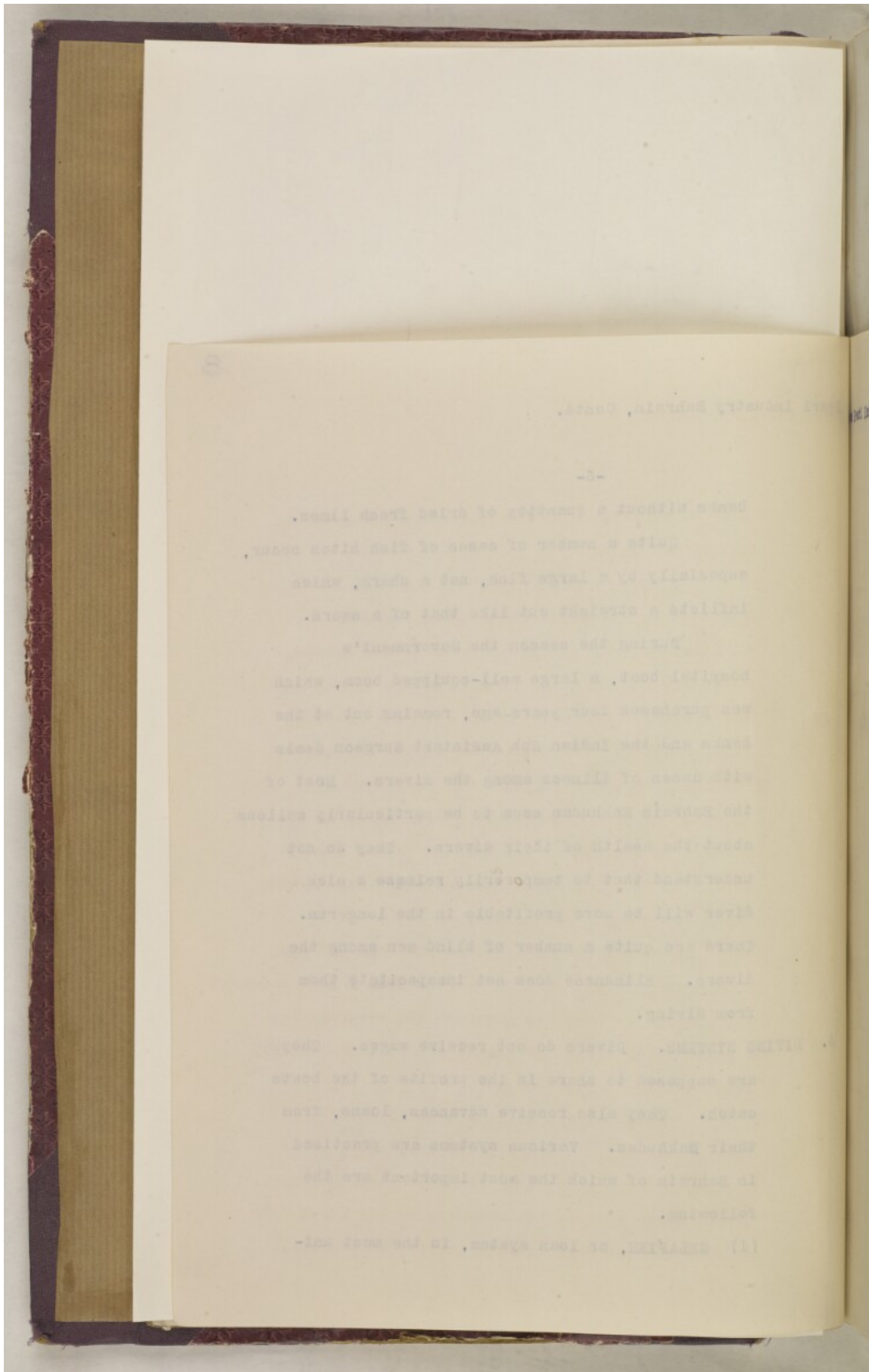
banks without a quantity of dried fresh limes.

Quite a number of cases of fish bites occur, especially by a large fish, not a shark, which inflicts a straight cut like that of a sword.

During the season the Government's hospital boat, a large well-equipped boom, which was purchased four years ago, remains out at the banks and the Indian Sub Assistant Surgeon deals with cases of illness among the divers. Most of the Bahrain Makhudas seem to be particularly callous about the health of their divers. They do not understand that to temporarily release a sick diver will be more profitable in the long run. There are quite a number of blind men among the divers. Blindness does not incapacitate them from diving.

6. DIVING SYSTEMS. Divers do not receive wages. They are supposed to share in the profits of the boat's catch. They also receive advances, loans, from their Makhudas. Various systems are practised in Bahrain of which the most important are the following.

(1) SELAFIEH, or loan system, is the most uni-





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Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

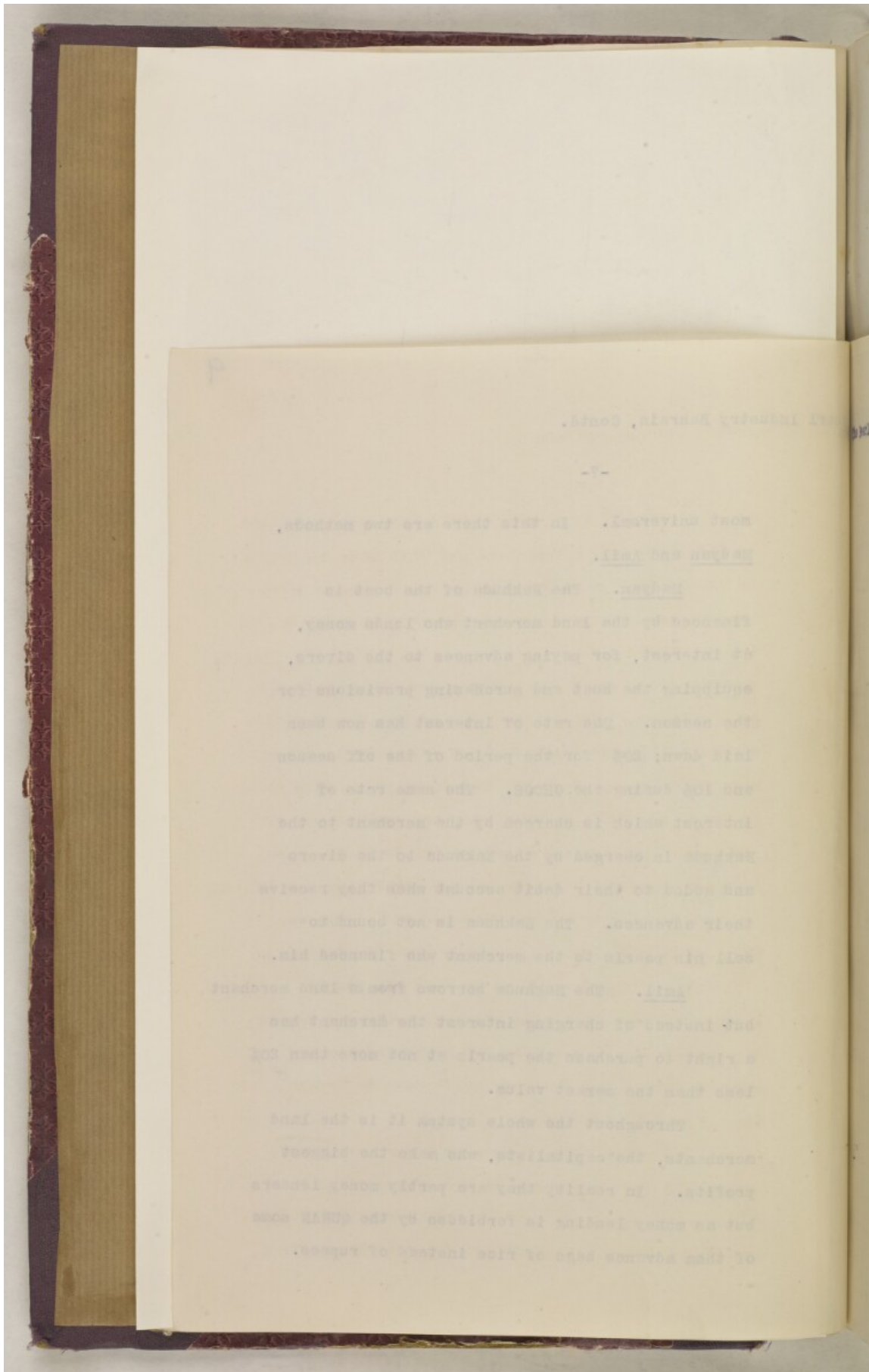
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most universal. In this there are two methods,
Madyan and Amil.

Madyan. The Nakhuda of the boat is financed by the land merchant who lends money, at interest, for paying advances to the divers, equipping the boat and purchasing provisions for the season. The rate of interest has now been laid down; 20% for the period of the off season and 10% during the GHOS. The same rate of interest which is charged by the merchant to the Nakhuda is charged by the Nakhuda to the divers and added to their debit account when they receive their advances. The Nakhuda is not bound to sell his pearls to the merchant who financed him.

Amil. The Nakhuda borrows from a land merchant but instead of charging interest the merchant has a right to purchase the pearls at not more than 20% less than the market value.

Throughout the whole system it is the land merchants, the capitalists, who make the biggest profits. In reality they are partly money lenders but as money lending is forbidden by the QURAN some of them advance bags of rice instead of rupees.





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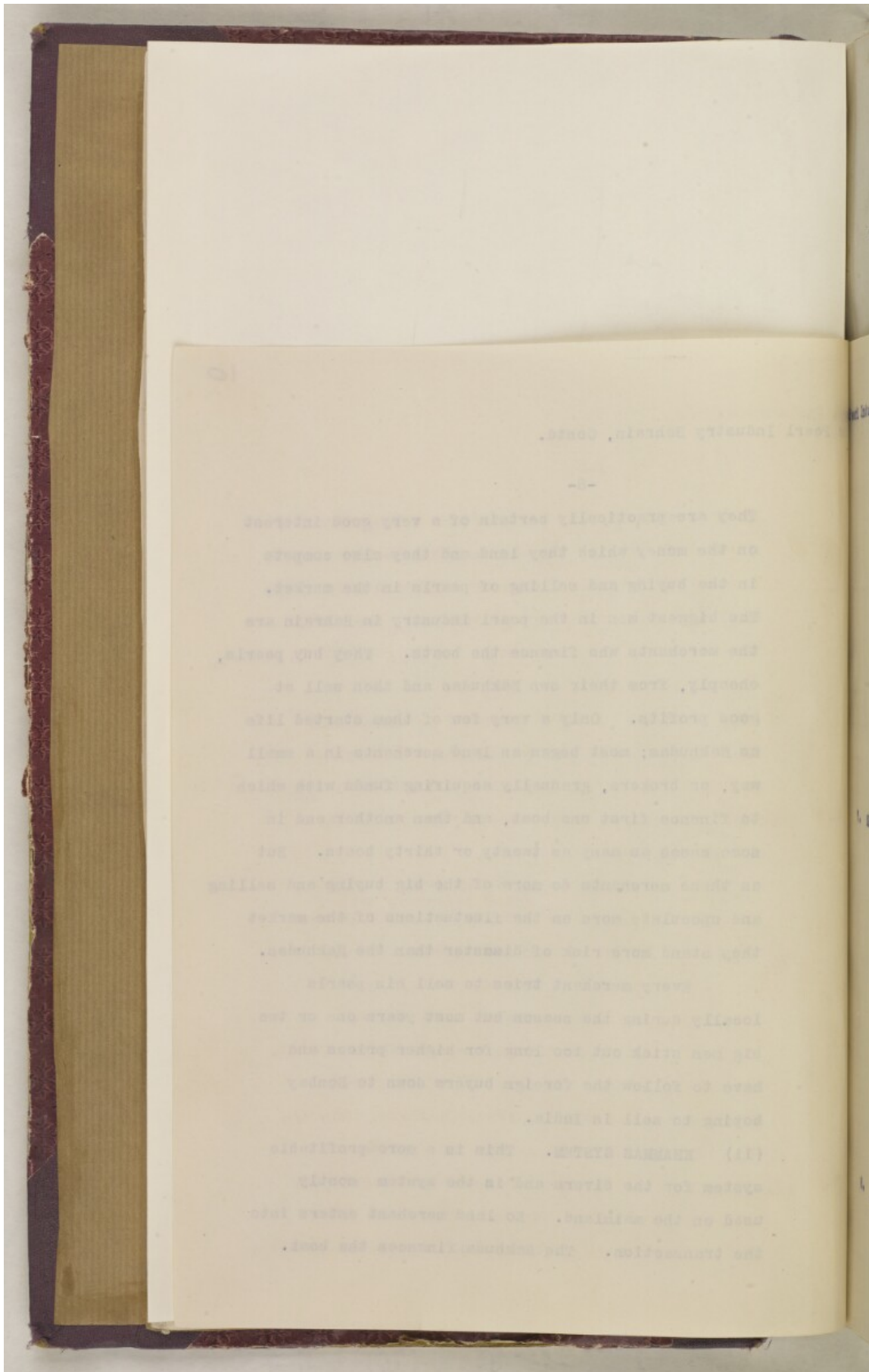
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They are practically certain of a very good interest on the money which they lend and they also compete in the buying and selling of pearls in the market. The biggest men in the pearl industry in Bahrain are the merchants who finance the boats. They buy pearls, cheaply, from their own Nakhudas and then sell at good profits. Only a very few of them started life as Nakhudas; most began as land merchants in a small way, or brokers, gradually acquiring funds with which to finance first one boat, and then another and in some cases as many as twenty or thirty boats. But as these merchants do more of the big buying and selling and speculate more on the fluctuations of the market they stand more risk of disaster than the Nakhudas.

Every merchant tries to sell his pearls locally during the season but most years one or two big men stick out too long for higher prices and have to follow the foreign buyers down to Bombay hoping to sell in India.

(11) KHAMMAS SYSTEM. This is a more profitable system for the divers and is the system mostly used on the mainland. No land merchant enters into the transaction. The Nakhuda finances the boat.





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No advances are made and proceeds are shared after each trip to the Banks. The Nakhuda besides his ordinary share as a Nakhuda gets half of 1/5th of the total profits. The divers besides their ordinary shares get half of 1/5th divided among them.

(iii) AZAL. A diver goes out independently in some Nakhuda's boat paying for his keep and paying 1/5th of his profits to the Nakhuda.

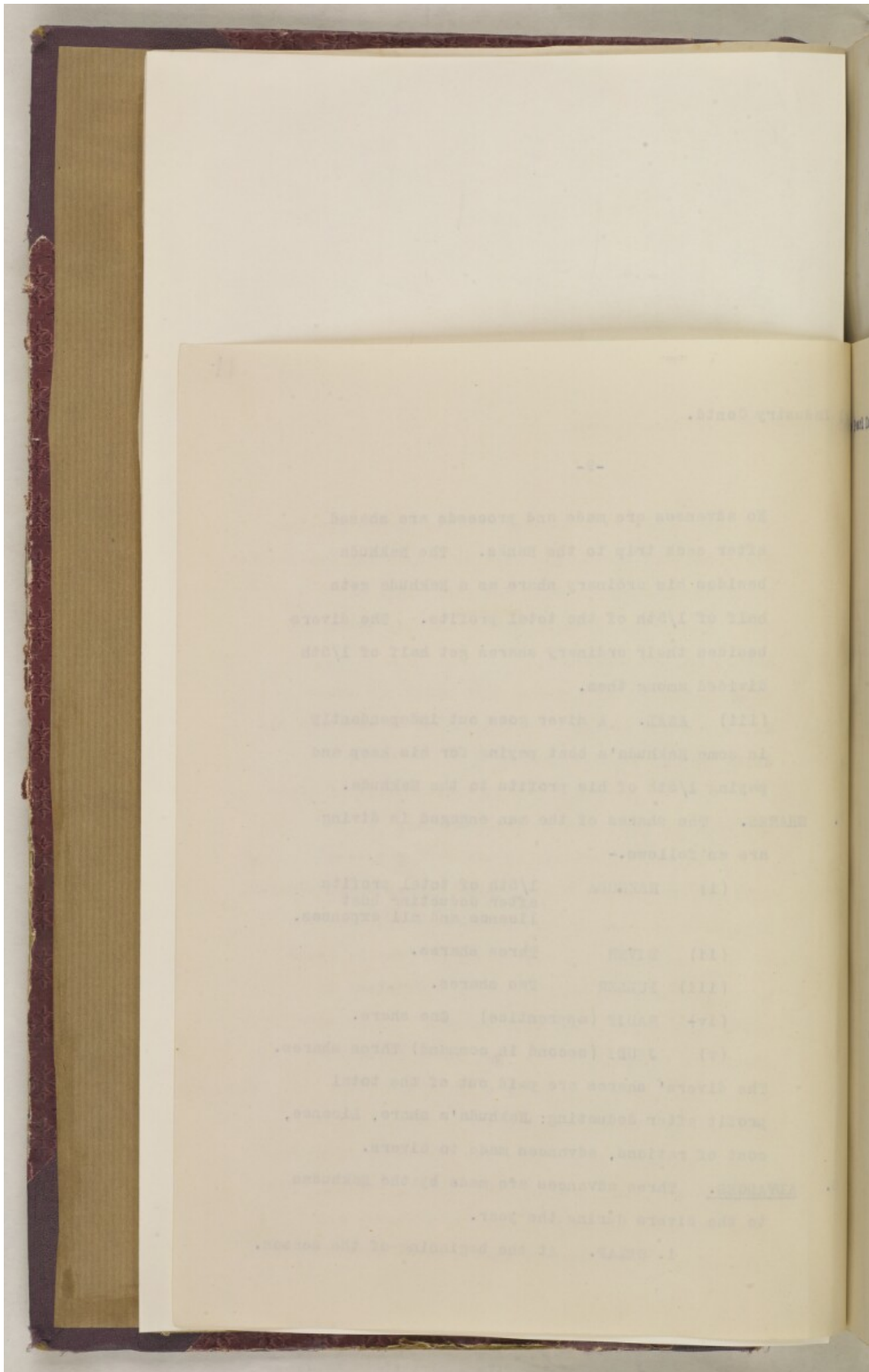
7. SHARES. The shares of the men engaged in diving are as follows.-

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|
| (i) | NAKHUDA | 1/5th of total profits after deducting boat licence and all expenses. |
| (ii) | DIVER | Three shares. |
| (iii) | PULLER | Two shares. |
| (iv) | RADIF (apprentice) | One share. |
| (v) | JEUDI (second in command) | Three shares. |

The divers' shares are paid out of the total profit after deducting: Nakhuda's share, Licence, cost of rations, advances made to divers.

8. ADVANCES. Three advances are made by the Nakhudas to the divers during the year.

1. SELAP. At the beginning of the season.





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Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

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This is intended to provide for the divers' families while men are diving and also to supply any necessaries which the divers may take out with them.

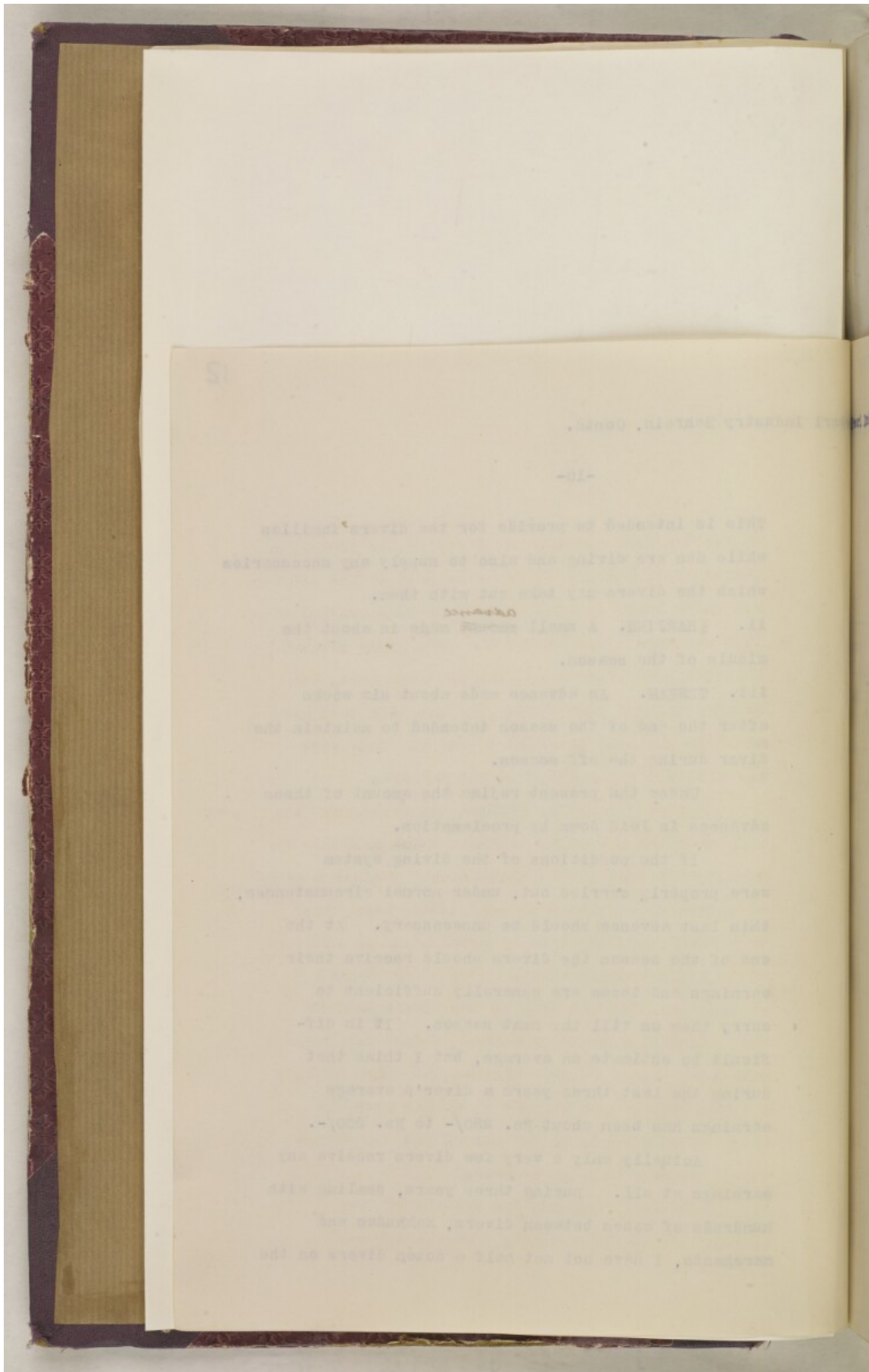
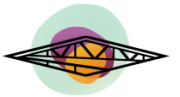
ii. KHARJIEH. A small ^{advance} ~~amount~~ made in about the middle of the season.

iii. TESKAM. An advance made about six weeks after the end of the season intended to maintain the diver during the off season.

Under the present regime the amount of these advances is laid down by proclamation.

If the conditions of the diving system were properly carried out, under normal circumstances, this last advance should be unnecessary. At the end of the season the divers should receive their earnings and these are generally sufficient to carry them on till the next season. It is difficult to estimate an average, but I think that during the last three years a diver's average earnings has been about Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/-.

Actually only a very few divers receive any earnings at all. During three years, dealing with hundreds of cases between divers, Nakhudas and merchants, I have not met half a dozen divers on the





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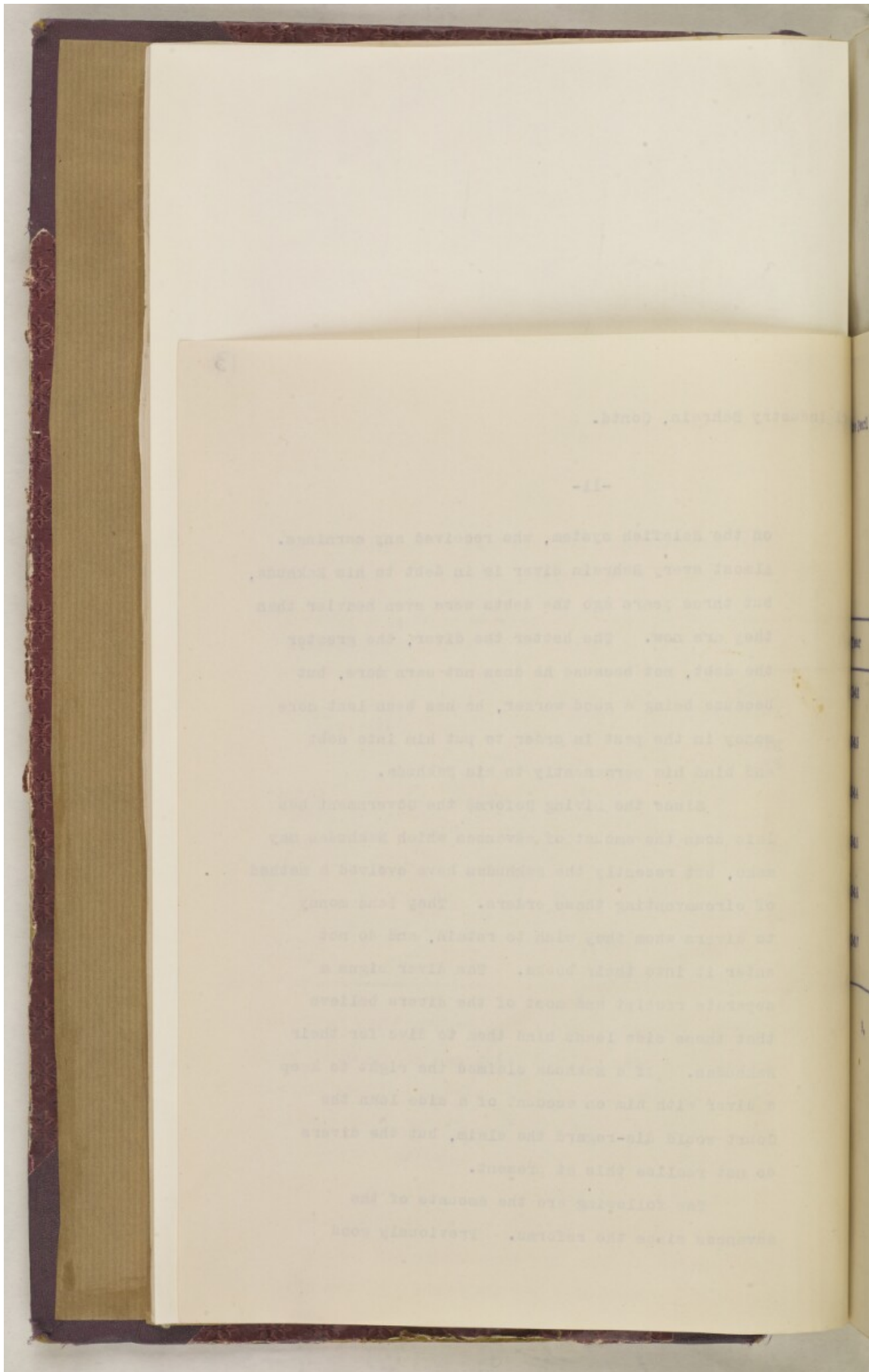
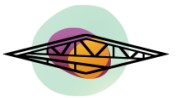
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on the Selaifish system, who received any earnings. Almost every Bahrain diver is in debt to his Nakhuda, but three years ago the debts were even heavier than they are now. The better the diver, the greater the debt, not because he does not earn more, but because being a good worker, he has been lent more money in the past in order to put him into debt and bind him permanently to his Nakhuda.

Since the Diving Reforms the Government has laid down the amount of advances which Nakhudas may make, but recently the Nakhudas have evolved a method of circumventing these orders. They lend money to divers whom they wish to retain, and do not enter it into their books. The diver signs a separate receipt and most of the divers believe that these side loans bind them to dive for their Nakhudas. If a Nakhuda claimed the right to keep a diver with him on account of a side loan the Court would dis-regard the claim, but the divers do not realise this at present.

The following are the amounts of the advances since the reforms. Previously good





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Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

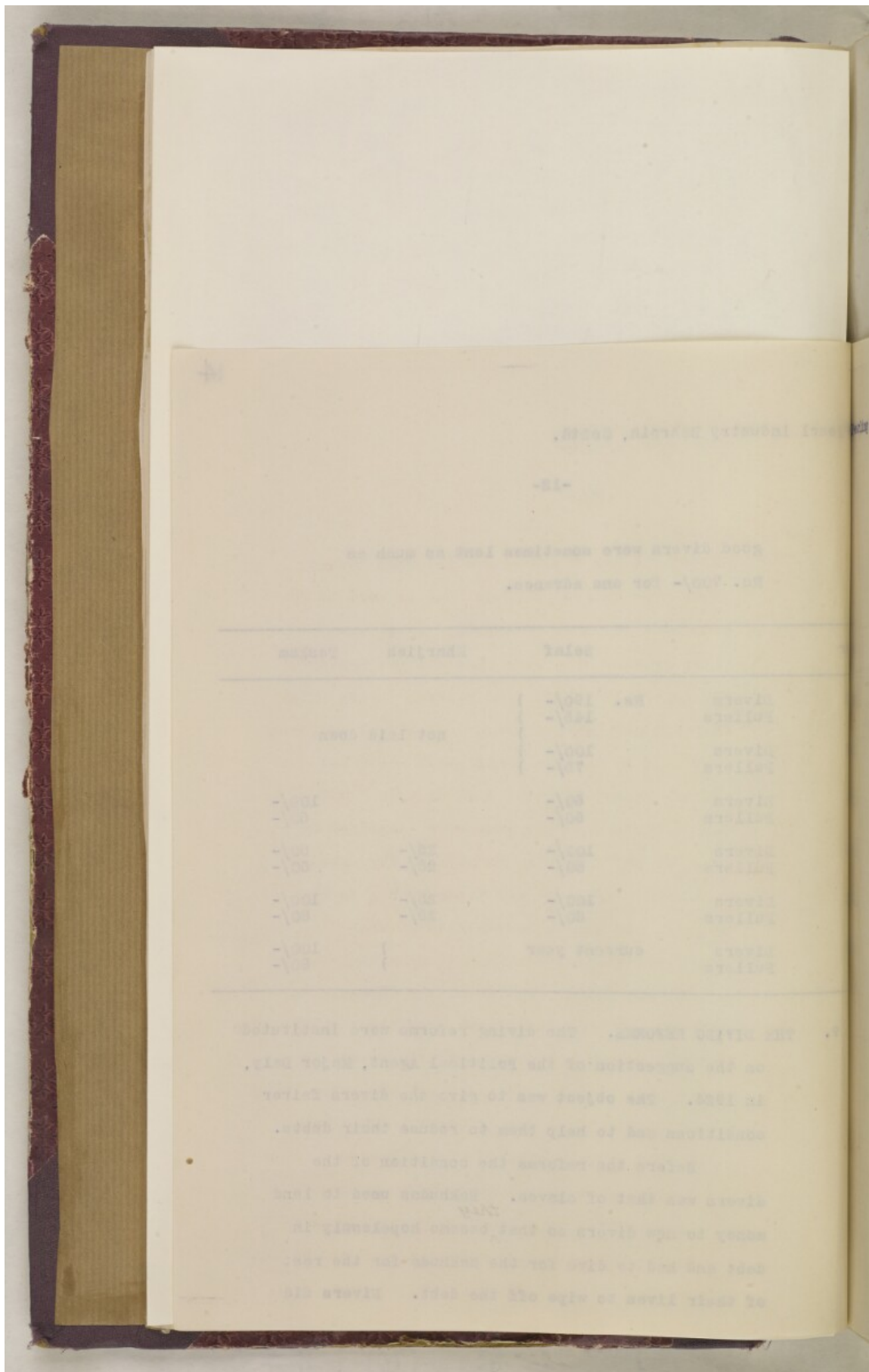
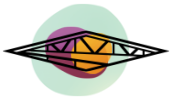
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good divers were sometimes lent as much as
Rs. 700/- for one advance.

| Ar | | Selaf | Kharjiah | Teskam |
|----|---------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| 2 | Divers | Rs. 190/- | } | |
| | Pullers | 145/- | | |
| 3 | Divers | 100/- | } | not laid down |
| | Pullers | 75/- | | |
| 4 | Divers | 60/- | | 100/- |
| | Pullers | 60/- | | 60/- |
| 5 | Divers | 100/- | 25/- | 80/- |
| | Pullers | 80/- | 25/- | 60/- |
| 6 | Divers | 100/- | 25/- | 100/- |
| | Pullers | 80/- | 25/- | 80/- |
| 7 | Divers | current year | } | 100/- |
| | Pullers | | | 80/- |

9. THE DIVING REFORMS. The diving reforms were instituted on the suggestion of the Political Agent, Major Daly, in 1924. The object was to give the divers fairer conditions and to help them to reduce their debts.

Before the reforms the condition of the divers was that of slaves. Nakhudas used to lend money to new divers so that ^{they} became hopelessly in debt and had to dive for the Nakhuda for the rest of their lives to wipe off the debt. Divers did





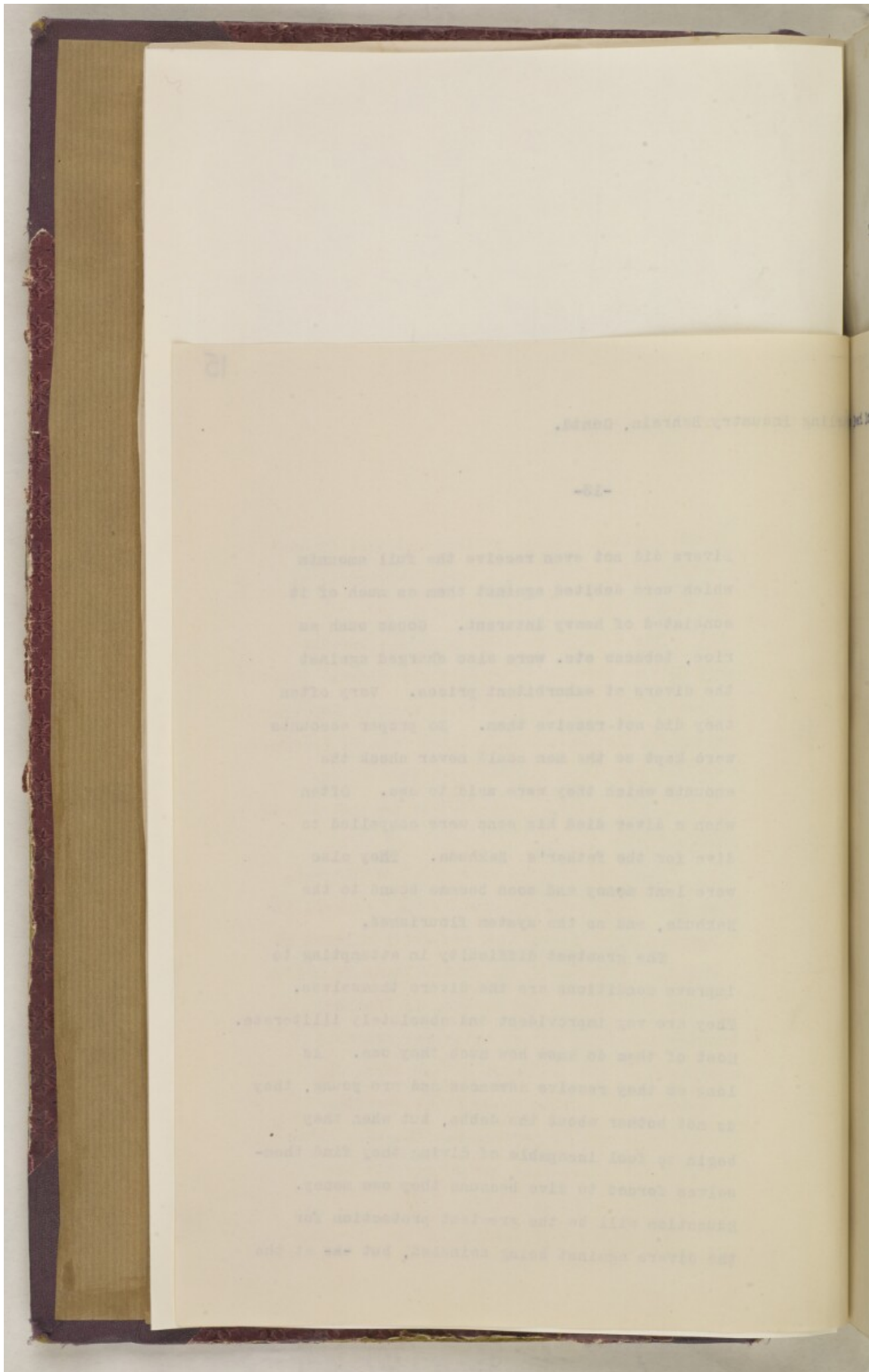
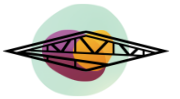
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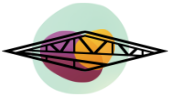
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Divers did not even receive the full amounts which were debited against them as much of it consisted of heavy interest. Goods such as rice, tobacco etc. were also charged against the divers at exorbitant prices. Very often they did not receive them. No proper accounts were kept so the men could never check the amounts which they were said to owe. Often when a diver died his sons were compelled to dive for the father's Nakhuda. They also were lent money and soon became bound to the Nakhuda, and so the system flourished.

The greatest difficulty in attempting to improve conditions are the divers themselves. They are very improvident and absolutely illiterate. Most of them do know how much they owe. As long as they receive advances and are young, they do not bother about the debts, but when they begin to feel incapable of diving they find themselves forced to dive because they owe money. Education will be the greatest protection for the divers against being swindled, but the at the





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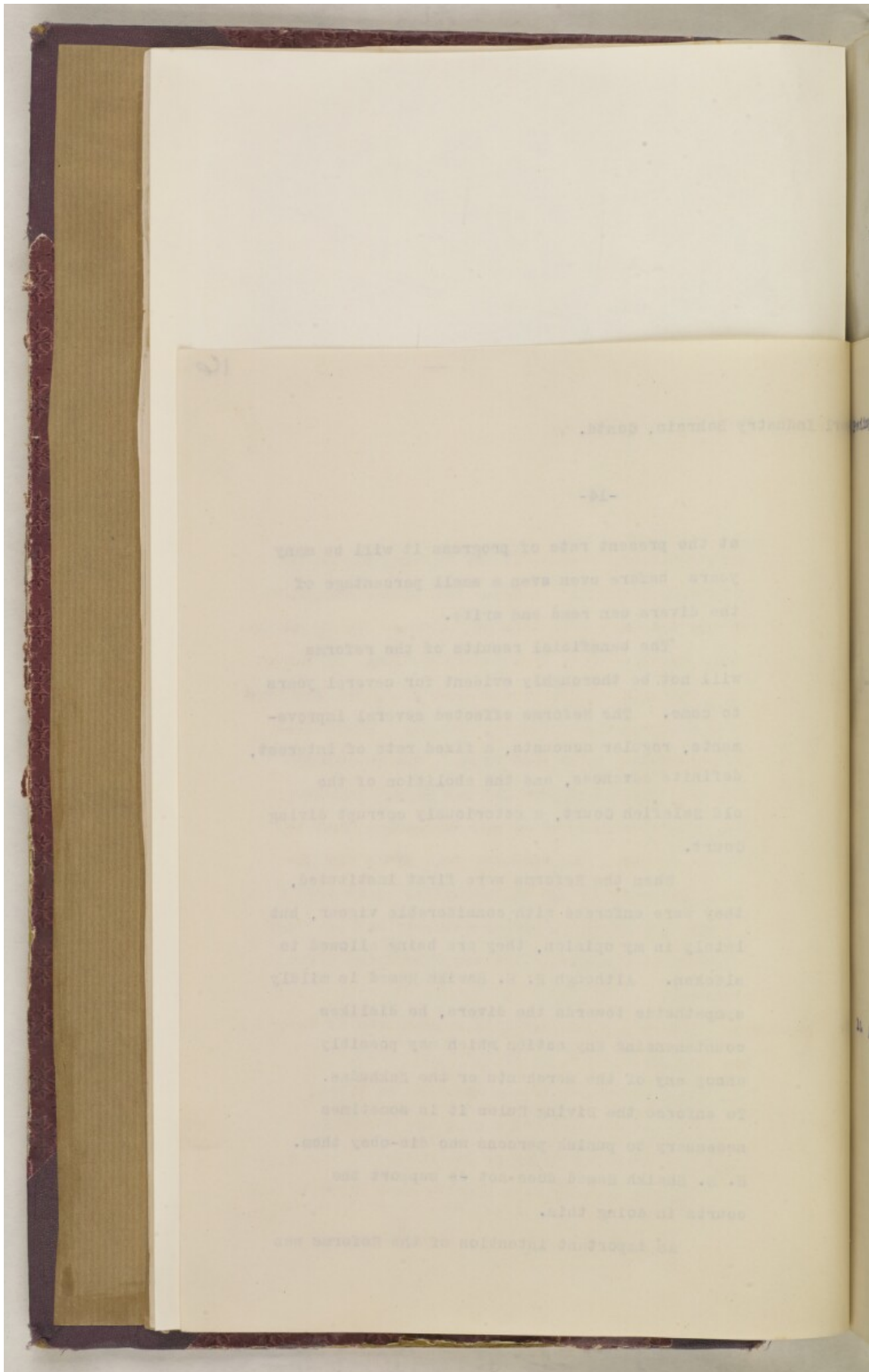
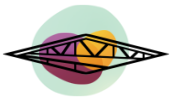
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at the present rate of progress it will be many years before even even a small percentage of the divers can read and write.

The beneficial results of the reforms will not be thoroughly evident for several years to come. The Reforms effected several improvements, regular accounts, a fixed rate of interest, definite advances, and the abolition of the old Selafieh Court, a notoriously corrupt diving Court.

When the Reforms were first instituted, they were enforced with considerable vigour, but lately in my opinion, they are being allowed to slacken. Although H. E. Shaikh Hamad is mildly sympathetic towards the divers, he dislikes countenancing any action which may possibly annoy any of the merchants or the Fakhudas. To enforce the Diving Rules it is sometimes necessary to punish persons who dis-obey them. H. E. Shaikh Hamad does not ~~se~~ support the courts in doing this.

An important intention of the Reforms was





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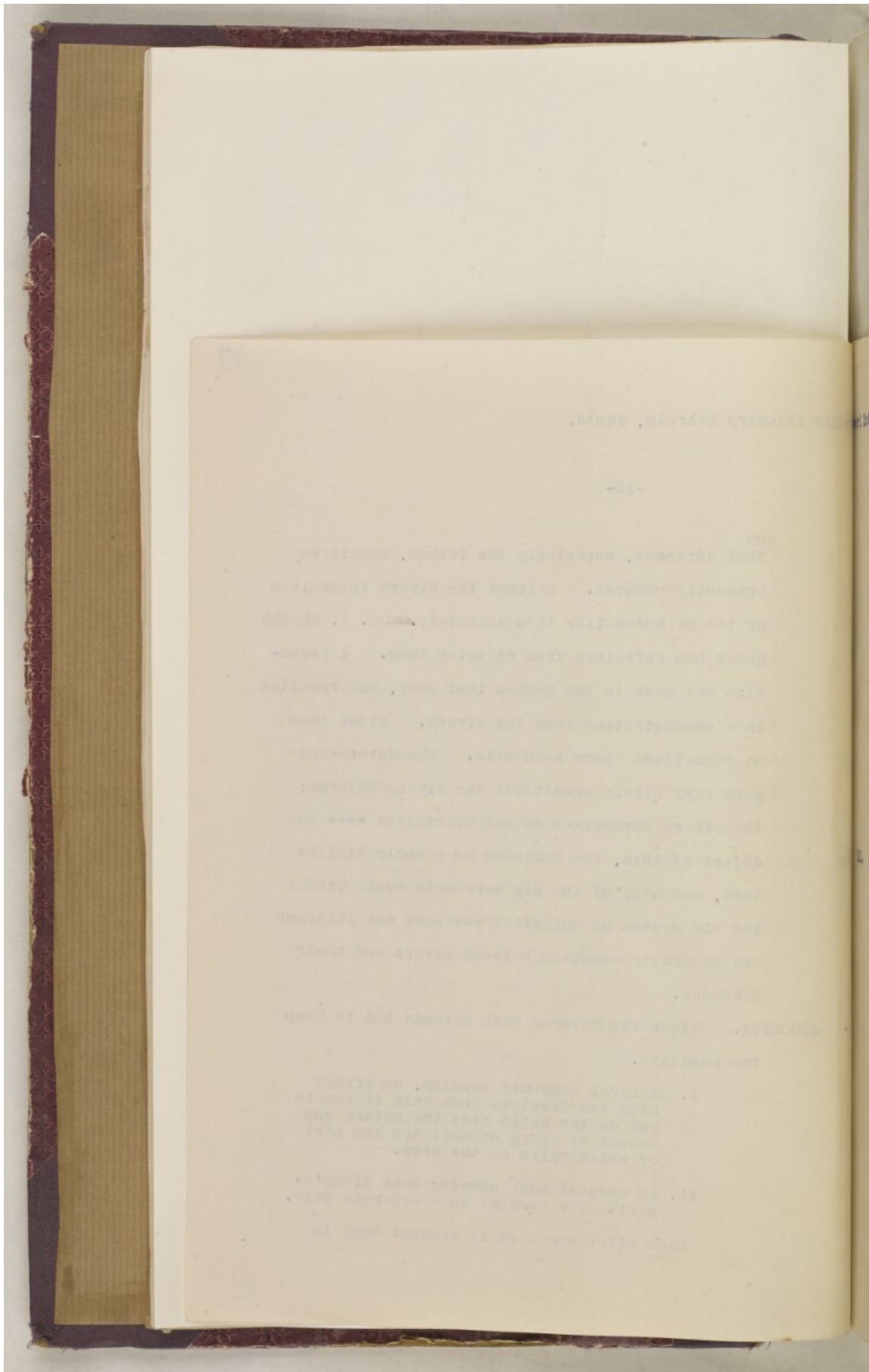
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was
that advances, especially the Teskam, should be gradually reduced. Neither the Divers themselves or the Nakhudas like this so lately ~~the~~ H. E. Shaikh Hamad has refrained from reducing them. A reduction was made in the Teskam last year, and resulted in a demonstration from the divers. Since then no reductions have been made. The Government gets very little credit for the Diving Reforms; the Divers themselves do not appreciate ~~them~~ the object of them, the Nakhudas as a whole dislike them, and many of the big merchants would prefer the old system of unlimited advances and interest and no proper accounts between divers and their Nakhudas.

10. ACCOUNTS. Since the Reforms each Nakhuda has to keep two accounts.

- i. General accounts showing, on credit side the receipts from sale of pearls and on the debit side the nature and amount of every expenditure any part of which falls on the crew.
- ii. An account book showing each diver's particular account on a separate page.

Each diver has a small account book in





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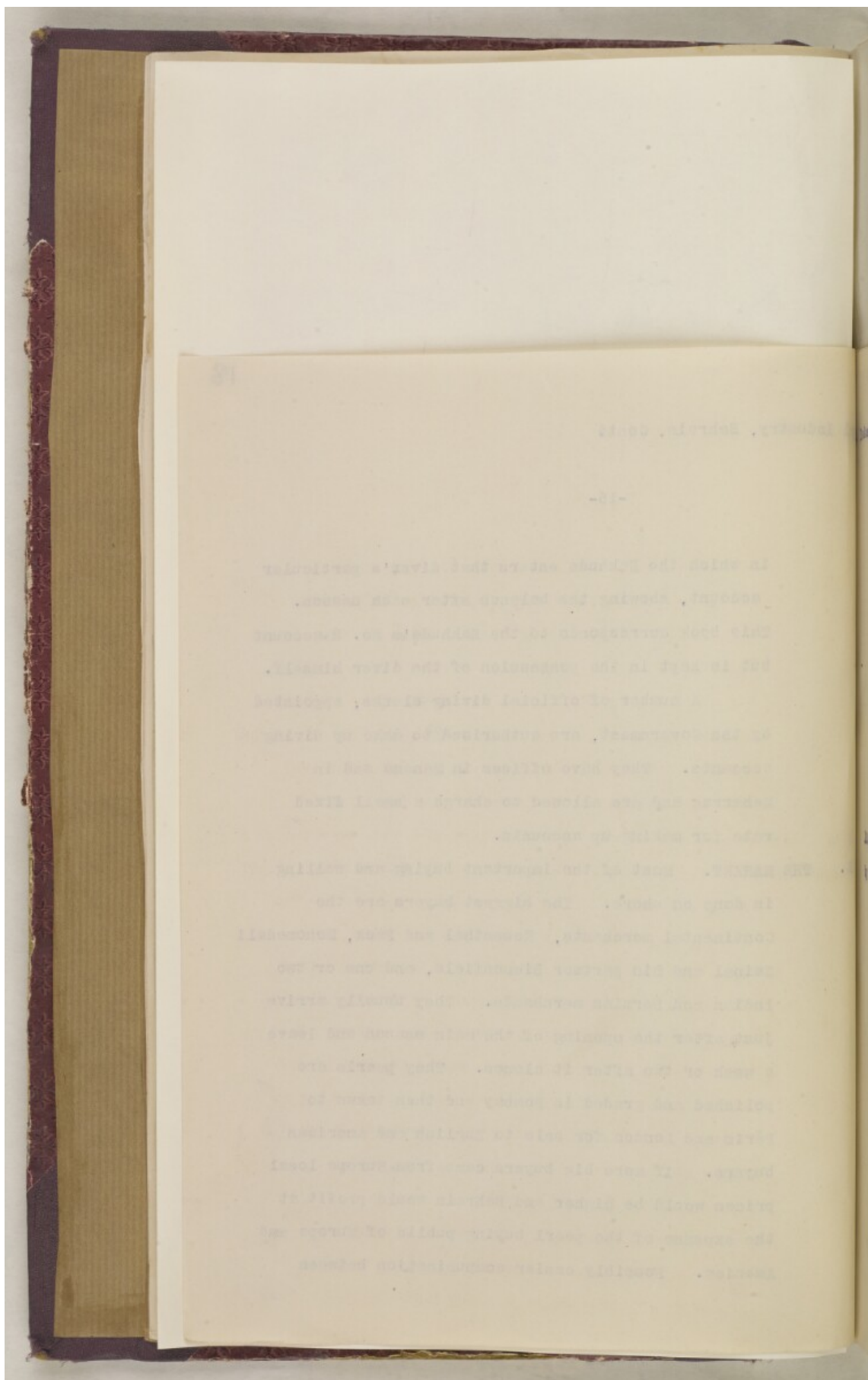
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in which the Nakhuda enters that diver's particular account, showing the balance after each season. This book corresponds to the Nakhuda's No. 2 account but is kept in the possession of the diver himself.

A number of official diving clerks, appointed by the Government, are authorised to make up diving accounts. They have offices in Manama and in Maharrak and are allowed to charge a small fixed rate for making up accounts.

11. THE MARKET. Most of the important buying and selling is done on shore. The biggest buyers are the Continental merchants, Rosenthal and Pack, Mohamedali Zainal and his partner Bienenfeld, and one or two Indian and Persian merchants. They usually arrive just after the opening of the main season and leave a week or two after it closes. Their pearls are polished and graded in Bombay and then taken to Paris and London for sale to English and American buyers. If more big buyers came from Europe local prices would be higher and Bahrain would profit at the expense of the pearl buying public of Europe and America. Possibly easier communication between





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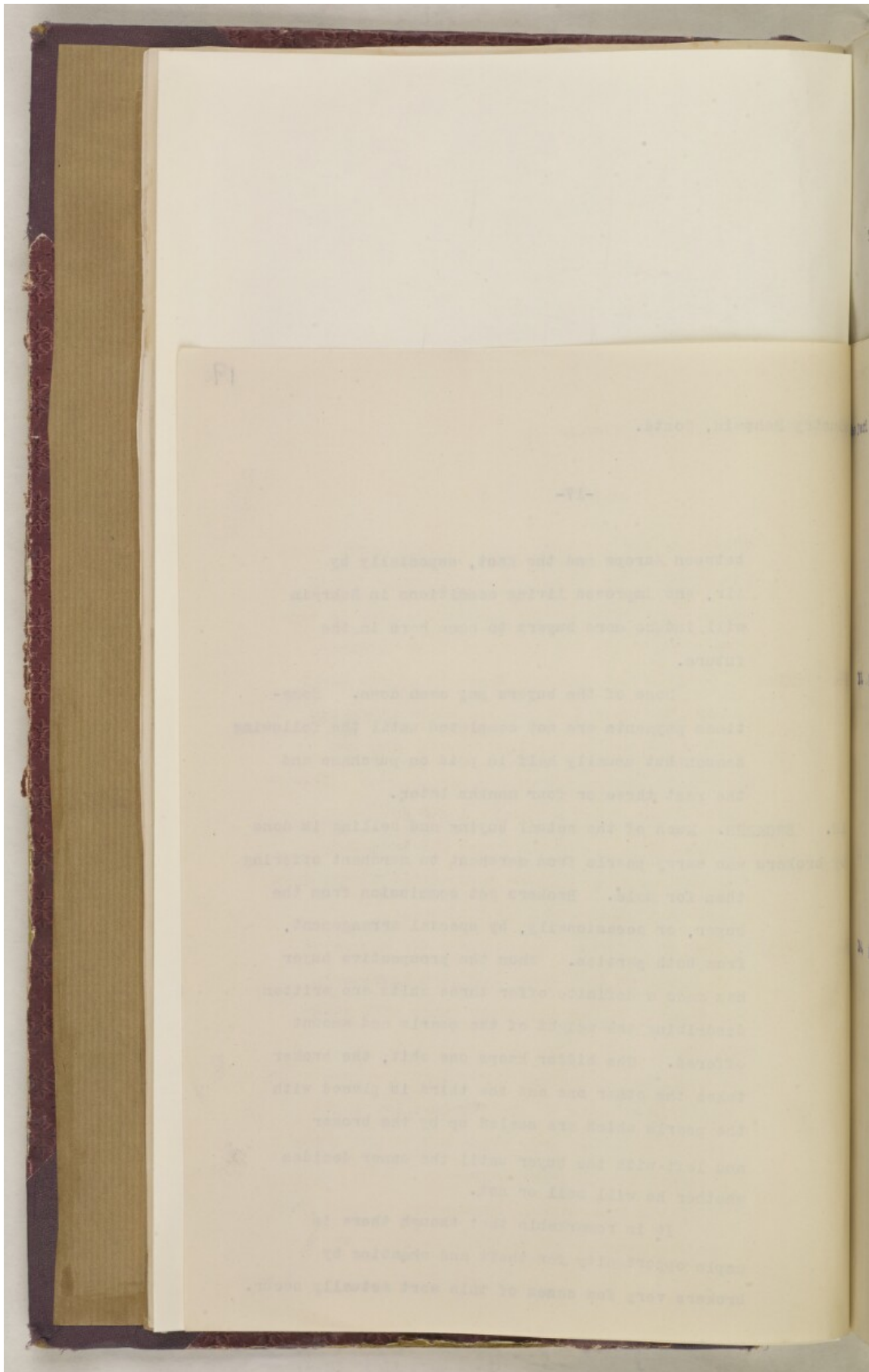
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between Europe and the East, especially by Air, and improved living conditions in Bahrain will induce more buyers to come here in the future.

None of the buyers pay cash down. Sometimes payments are not completed until the following season but usually half is paid on purchase and the rest three or four months later.

12. **BROKERS.** Much of the actual buying and selling is done by brokers who carry pearls from merchant to merchant offering them for sale. Brokers get commission from the buyer, or occasionally, by special arrangement, from both parties. When the prospective buyer has made a definite offer three chits are written describing the weight of the pearls and amount offered. The bidder keeps one chit, the broker takes the other one and the third is placed with the pearls which are sealed up by the broker and left with the buyer until the owner decides whether he will sell or not.

It is remarkable that though there is ample opportunity for theft and cheating by brokers very few cases of this sort actually occur.





20

Pearl Industry Bahrain, Contd.

-12-

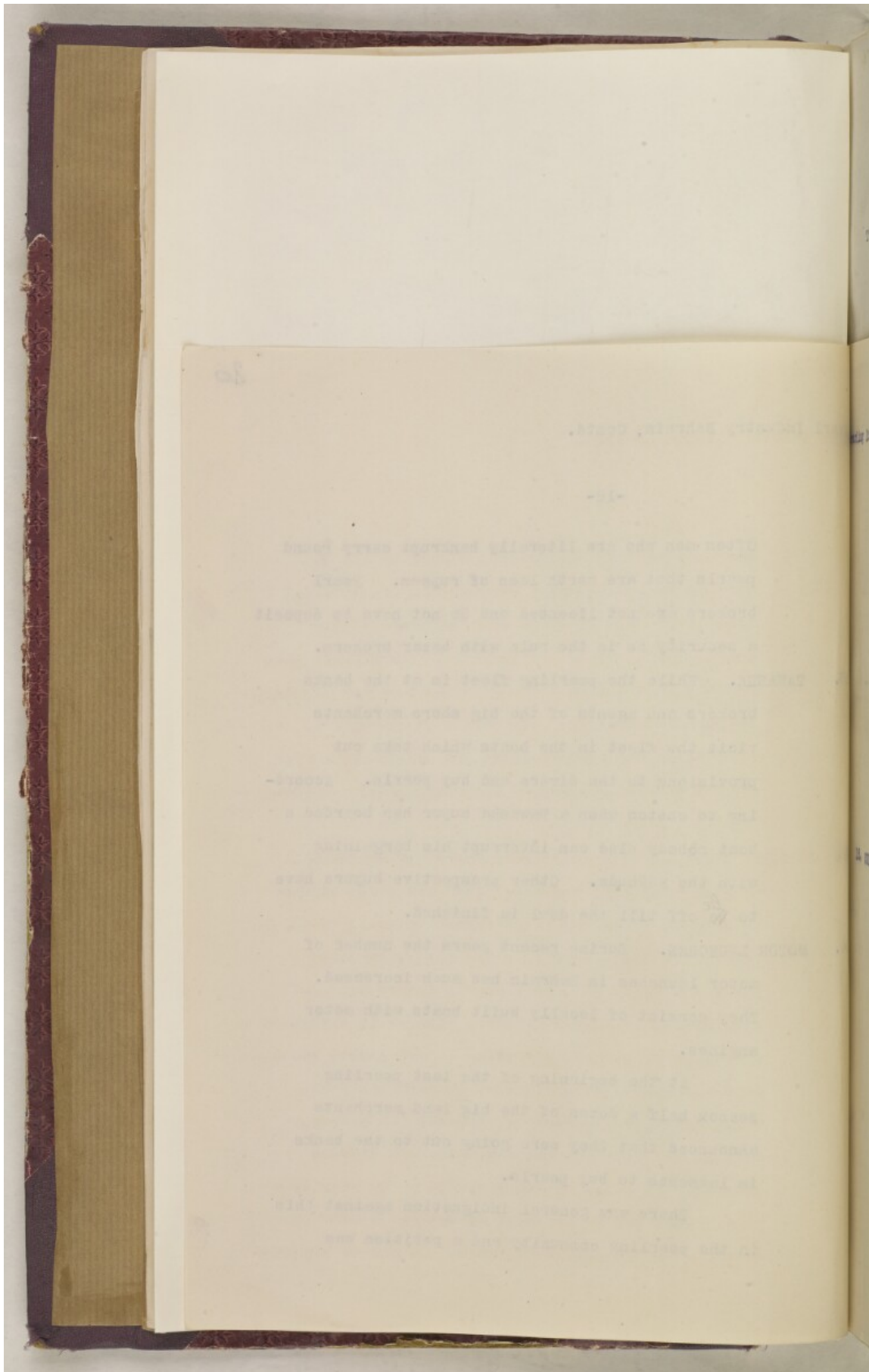
Often men who are literally bankrupt carry round pearls that are worth lacs of rupees. Pearl brokers are not licensed and do not have to deposit a security as is the rule with bazar brokers.

13. TAWASHA. While the pearling fleet is at the banks brokers and agents of the big shore merchants visit the fleet in the boats which take out provisions to the divers and buy pearls. According to custom when a Tawasha buyer has boarded a boat nobody else can interrupt his bargaining with the Bakhuda. Other prospective buyers have to ^{lie} ~~be~~ off till the deal is finished.

14. MOTOR LAUNCHES. During recent years the number of motor launches in Bahrain has much increased. They consist of locally built boats with motor engines.

At the beginning of the last pearling season half a dozen of the big land merchants announced that they were going out to the banks in launches to buy pearls.

There was general indignation against this in the pearling community and a petition was





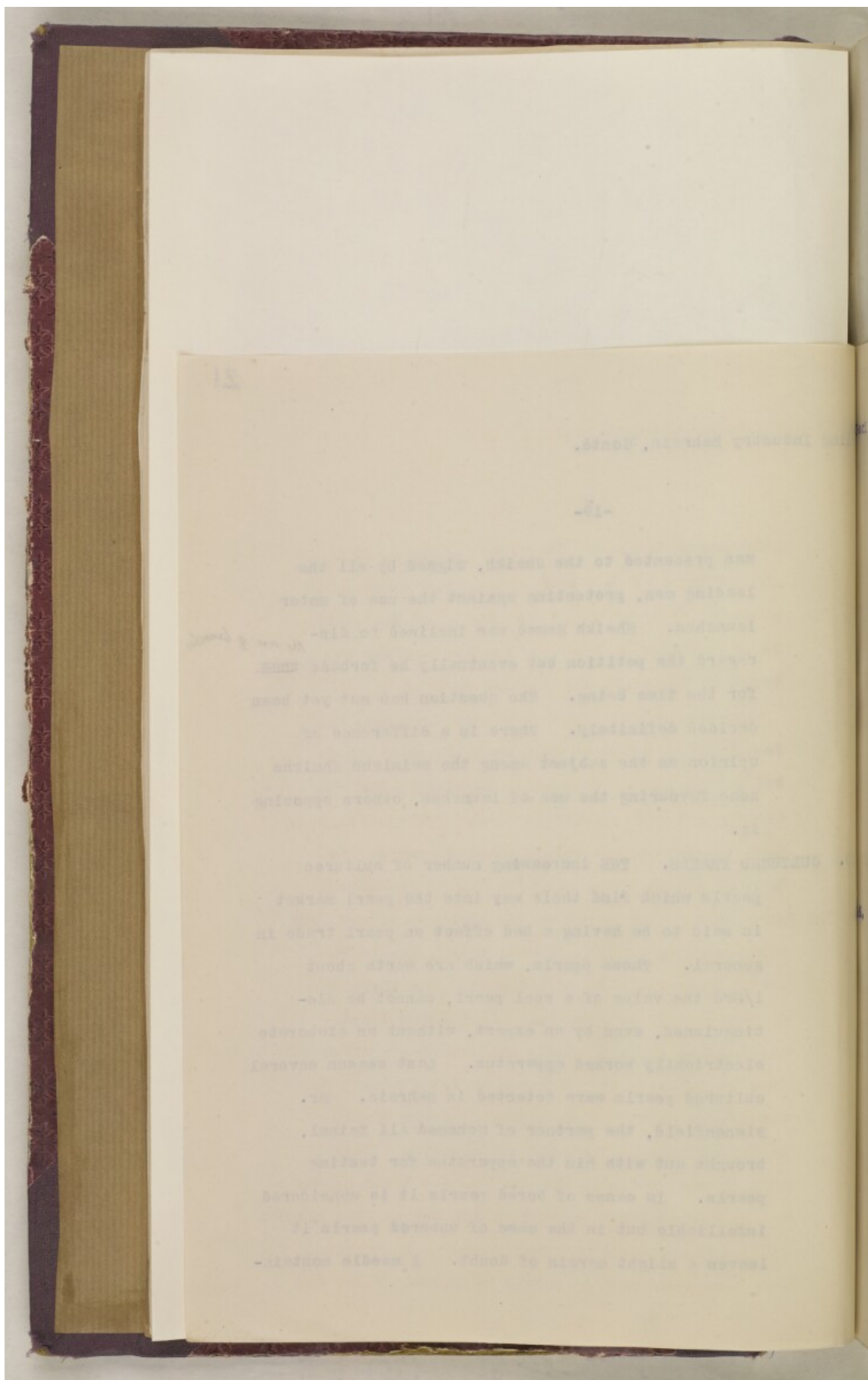
21

rling Industry Bahrain, Contd.

-19-

was presented to the Shaikh, signed by all the leading men, protesting against the use of motor launches. Shaikh Hamed was inclined to dis- *the use of launches* regard the petition but eventually he forbade ~~them~~ for the time being. The question has not yet been decided definitely. There is a difference of opinion on the subject among the mainland Shaikhs some favouring the use of launches, others opposing it.

15. CULTURED PEARLS. THE increasing number of cultured pearls which find their way into the pearl market is said to be having a bad effect on pearl trade in general. These pearls, which are worth about 1/3rd the value of a real pearl, cannot be distinguished, even by an expert, without an elaborate electrically worked apparatus. Last season several cultured pearls were detected in Bahrain. Mr. Bienenfeld, the partner of Mohamed Ali Zainal, brought out with him the apparatus for testing pearls. In cases of bored pearls it is considered infallible but in the case of unbored pearls it leaves a slight margin of doubt. A needle contain-





22

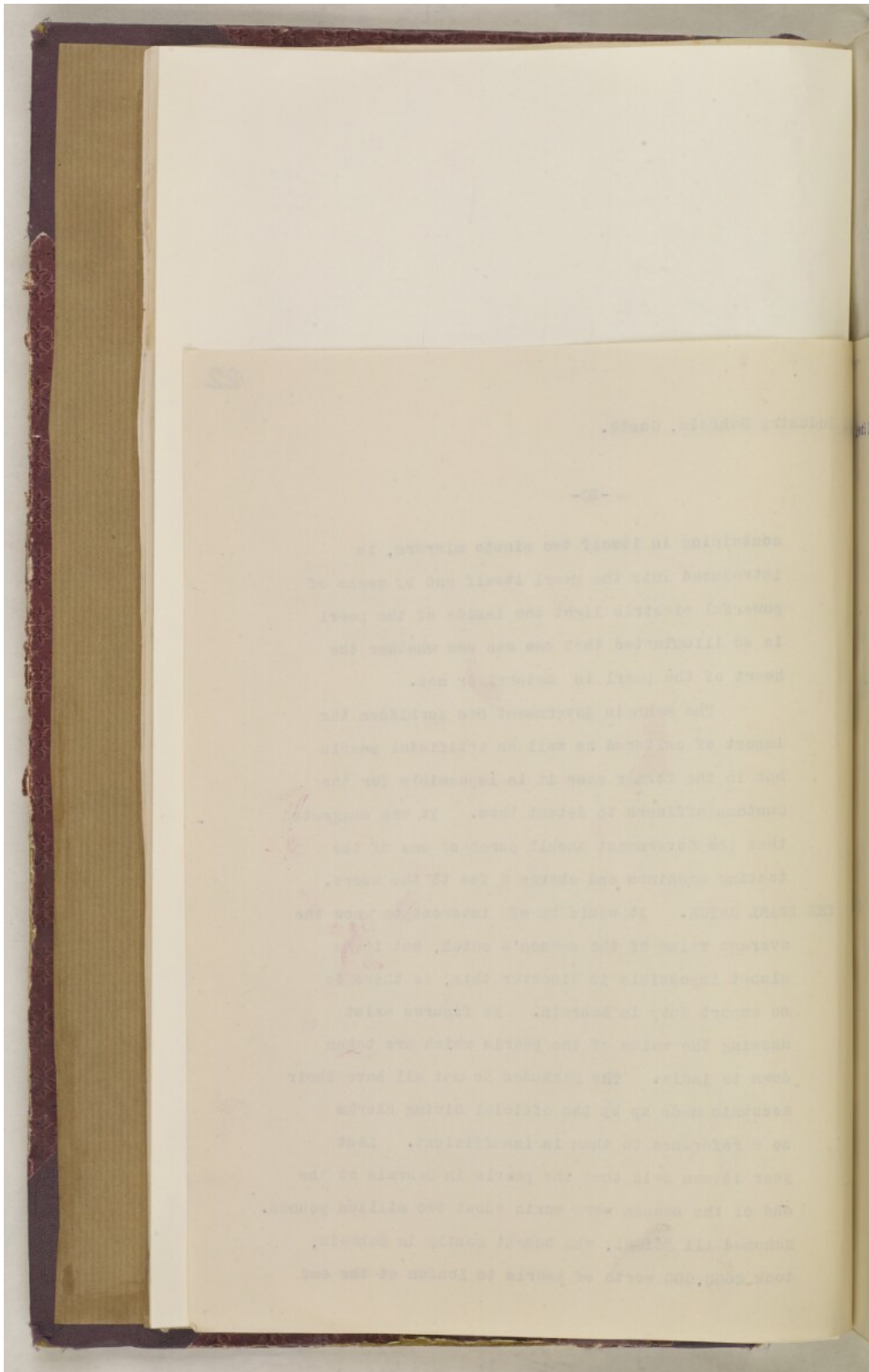
al Industry Bahrain, Contd..

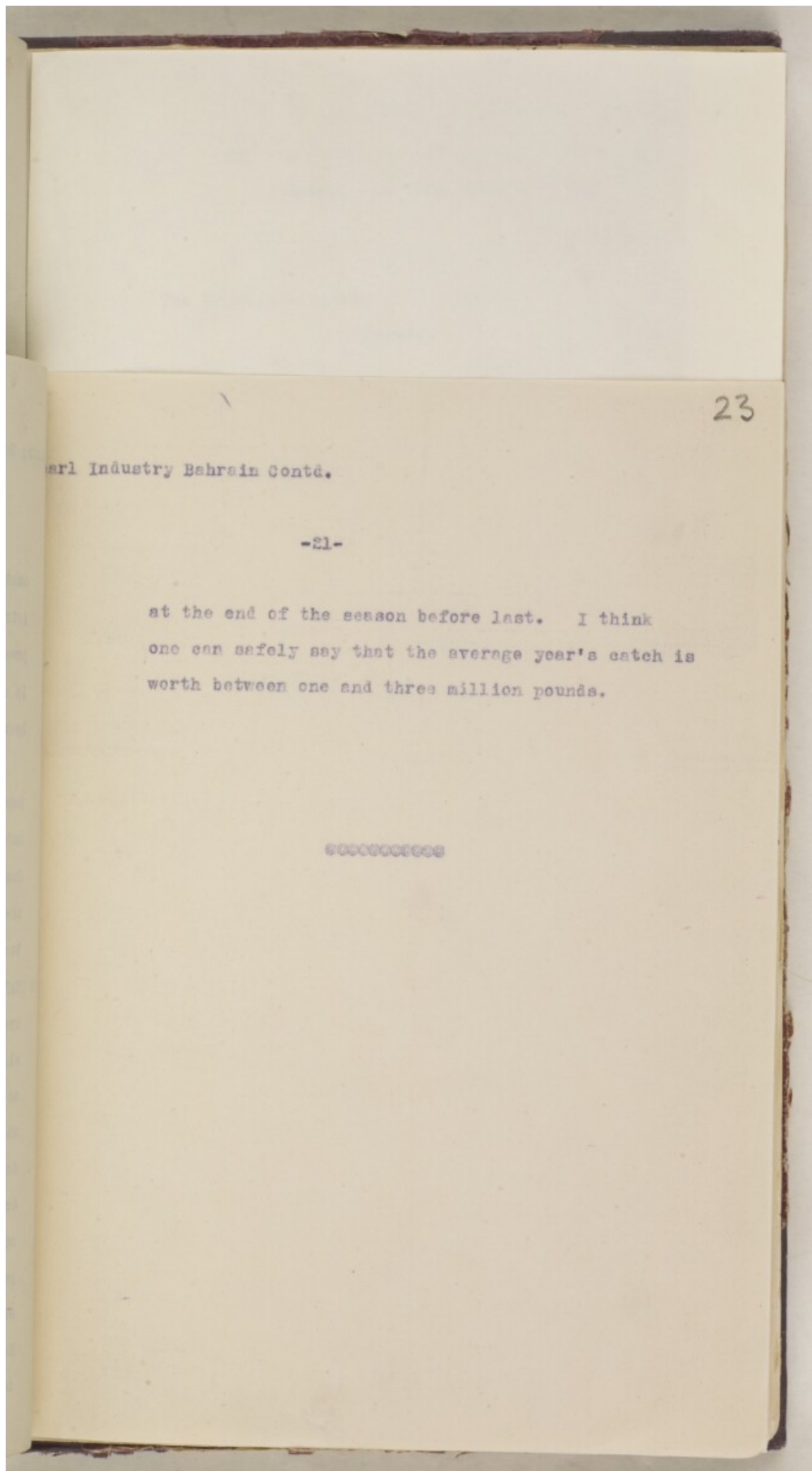
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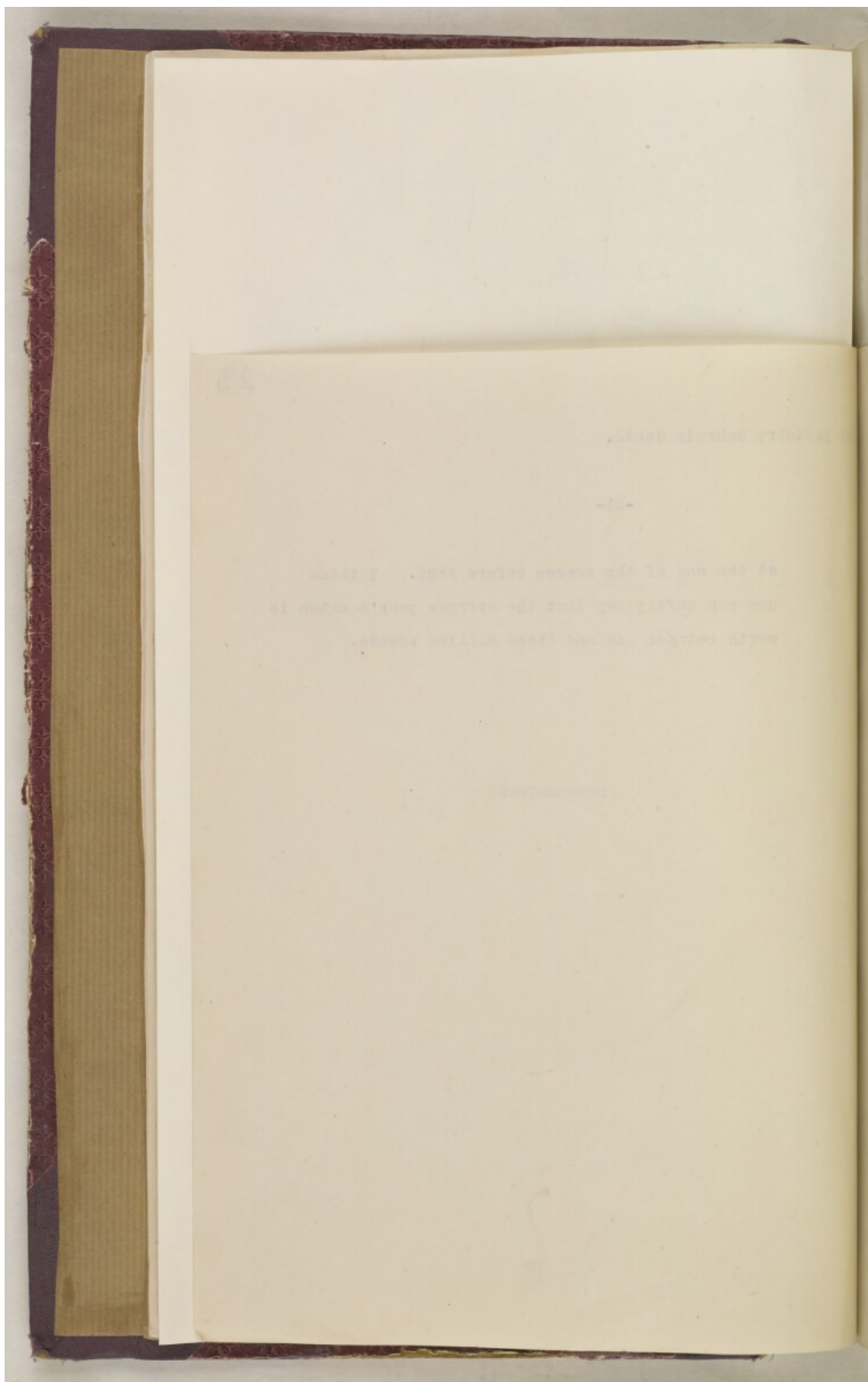
containing in itself two minute mirrors, is introduced into the pearl itself and by means of powerful electric light the inside of the pearl is so illuminated that one can see whether the heart of the pearl is natural or not.

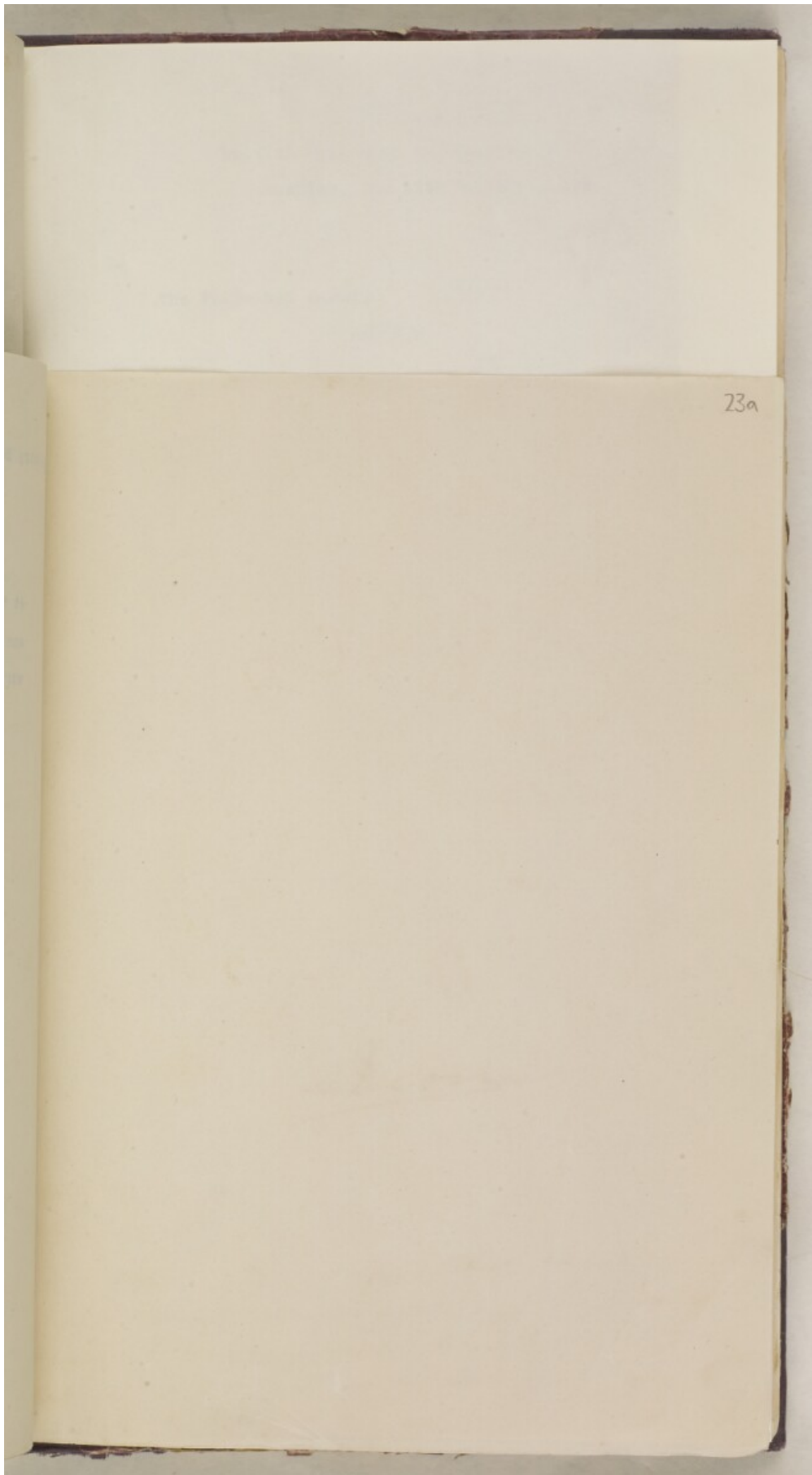
The Bahrain Government has forbidden the import of cultured as well as artificial pearls but in the former case it is impossible for the Customs officers to detect them. It was suggested that the Government should purchase one of the testing machines and charge a fee to the users.

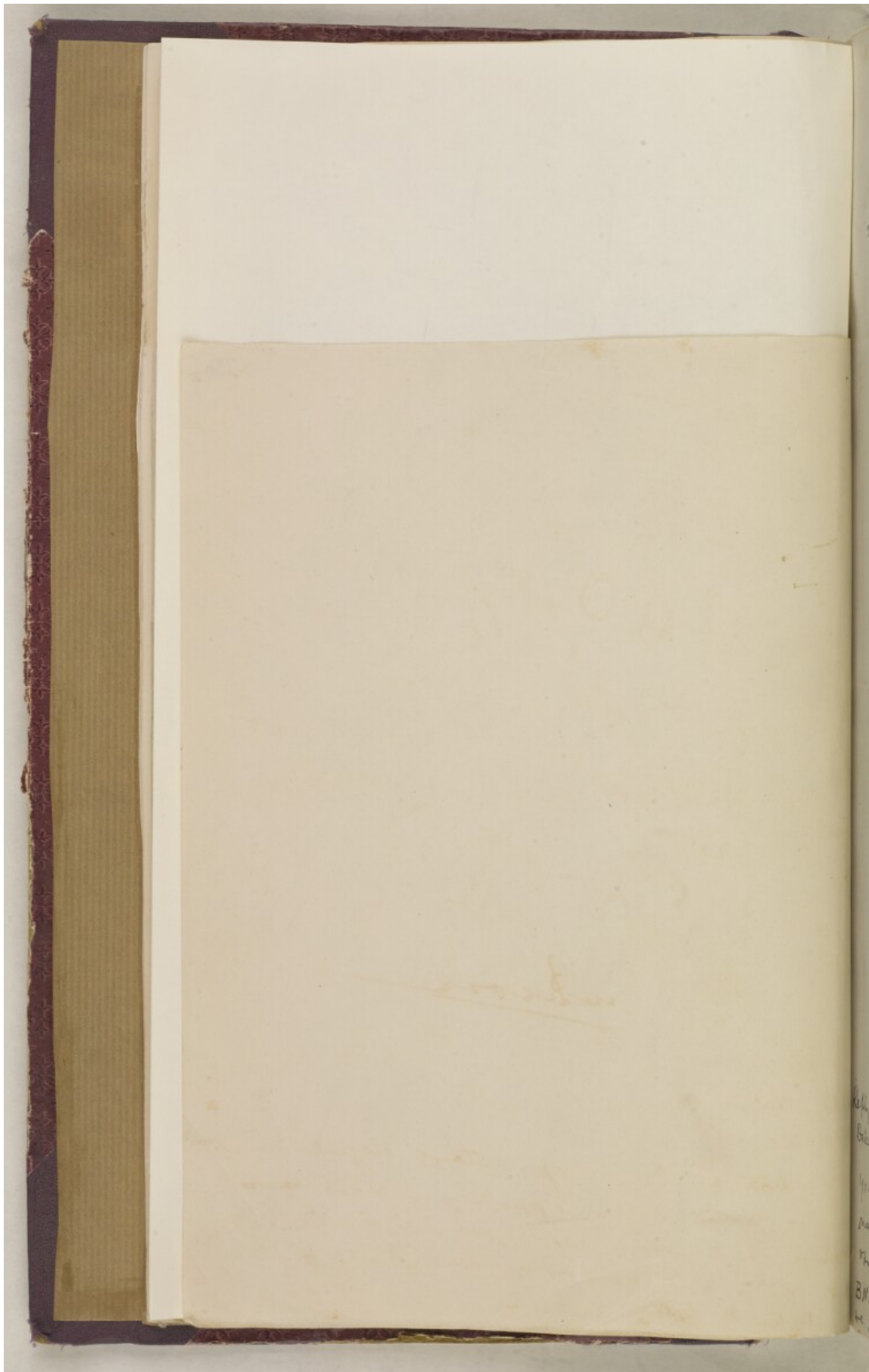
THE PEARL CATCH. It would be of interest to know the average value of the season's catch, but it is almost impossible to discover this, as there is no export duty in Bahrain. No figures exist showing the value of the pearls which are taken down to India. The Bakhudas do not all have their accounts made up by the official diving clerks so a reference to them is insufficient. Last year it was said that the pearls in Bahrain at the end of the season were worth about two million pounds. Mohamed Ali Zainal, who bought mostly in Bahrain, took 2600,000 worth of pearls to London at the end

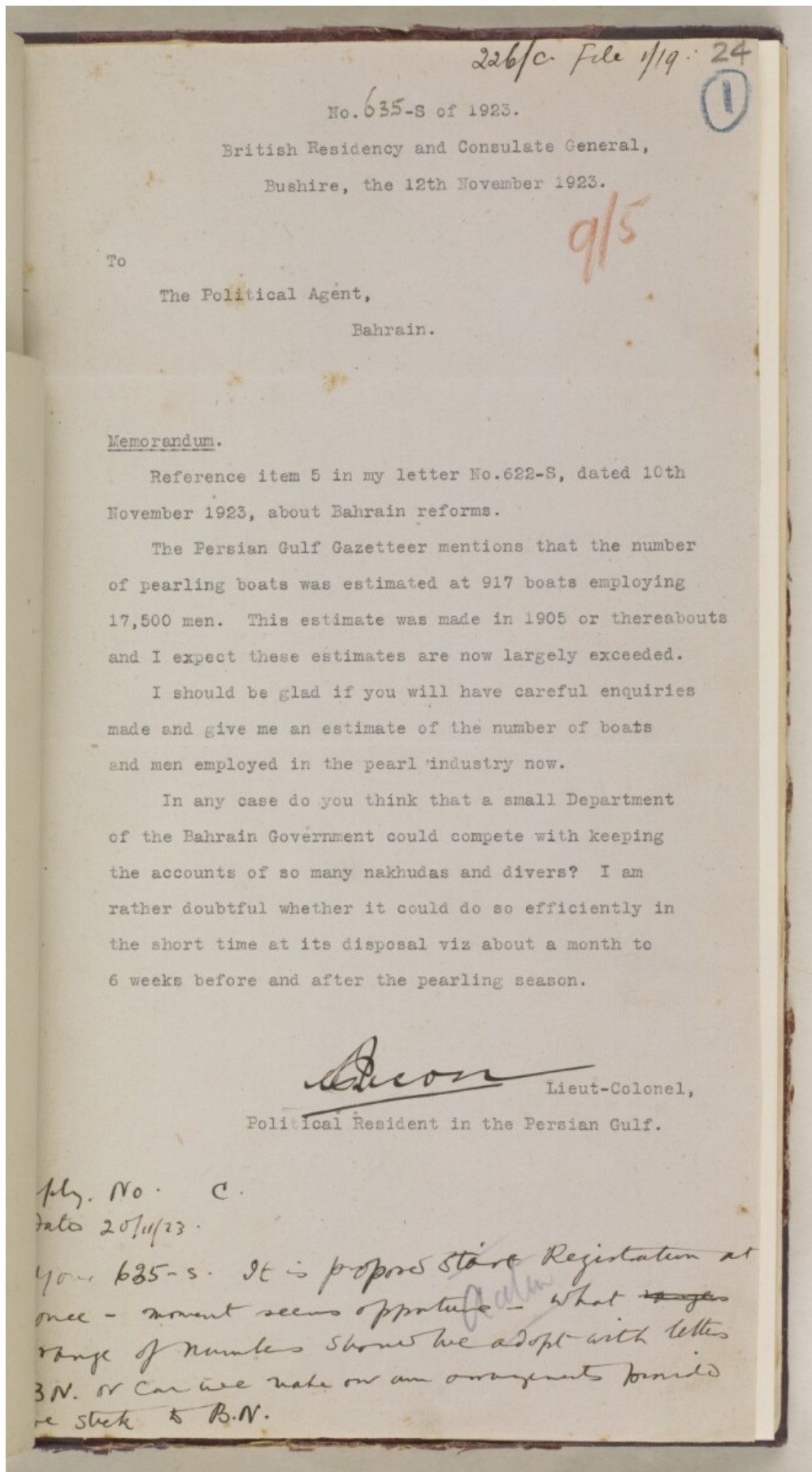


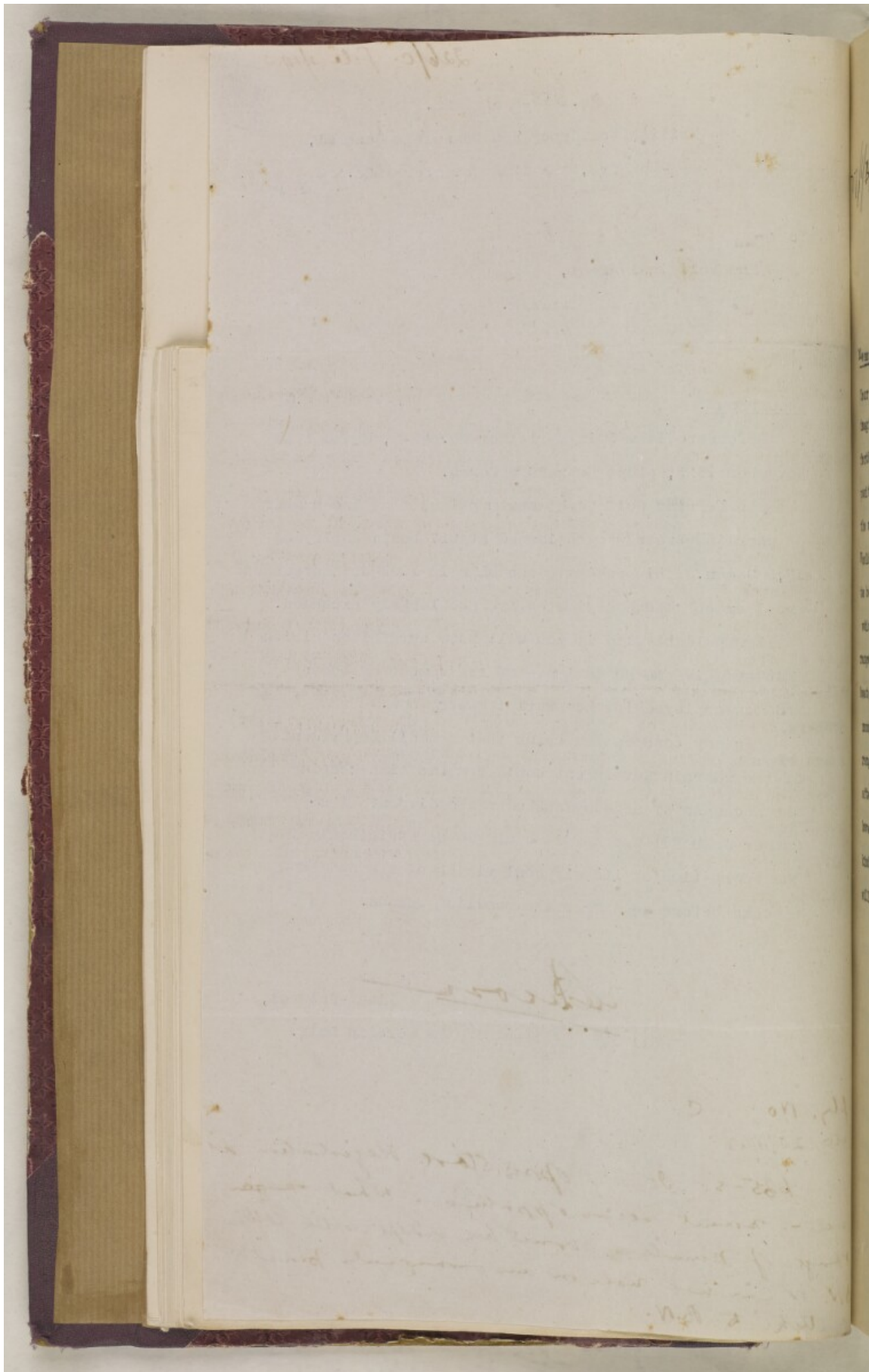






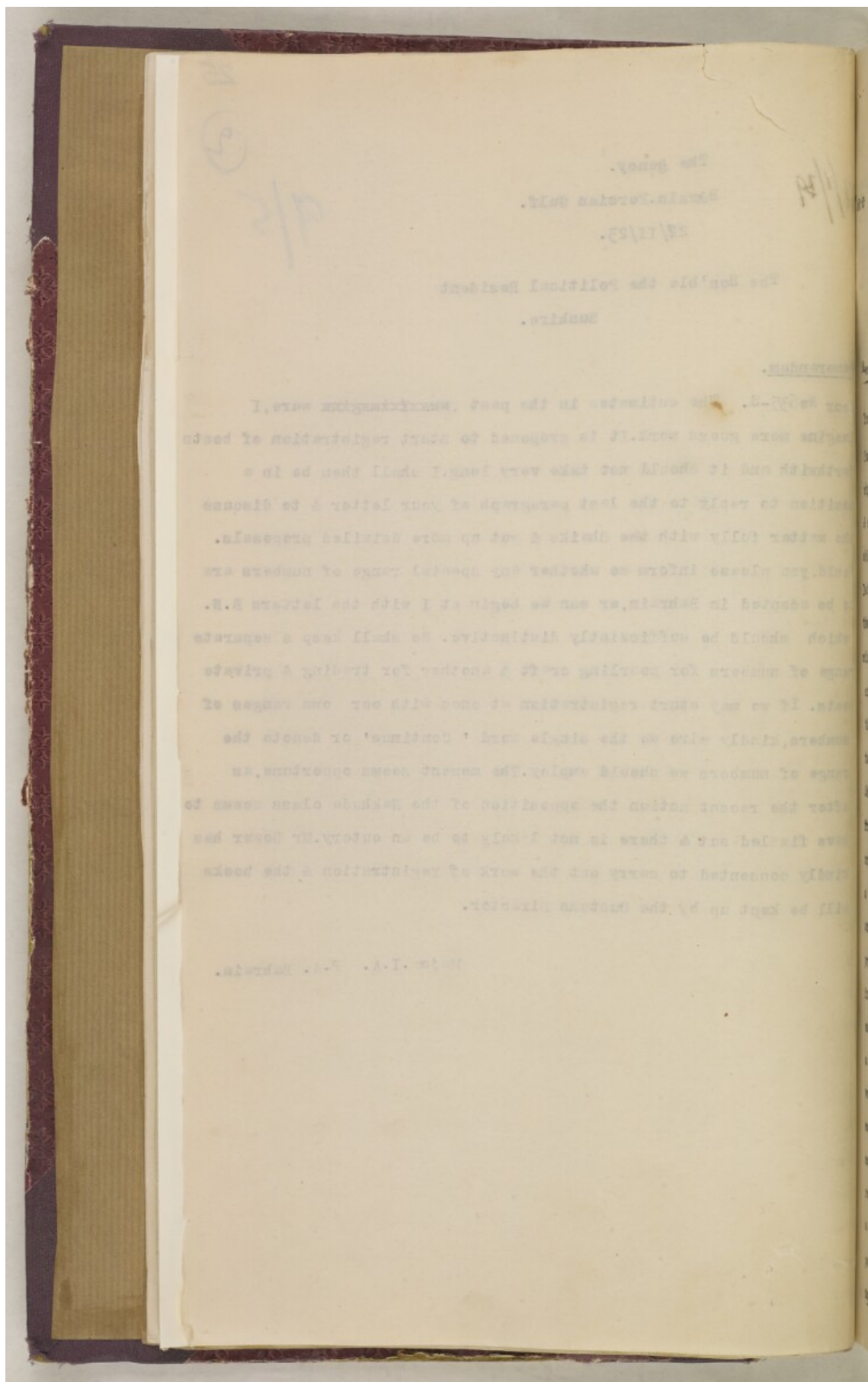








25
②
9/5
17/4/29
The Agency.
Bahrain-Persian Gulf.
27/II/23.
The Hon'ble the Political Resident
Bushire.
Memorandum.
Your No 635-S. The estimates in the past ~~xxxxxxxx~~ were, I
imagine were guess work. It is proposed to start registration of boats
forthwith and it should not take very long. I shall then be in a
position to reply to the last paragraph of your letter & to discuss
the matter fully with the Shaikh & put up more detailed proposals.
Would you please inform me whether any special range of numbers are
to be adopted in Bahrain, or can we begin at I with the letters B.N.
which should be sufficiently distinctive. We shall keep a separate
range of numbers for pearling craft & another for trading & private
boats. If we may start registration at once with our own ranges of
numbers, kindly wire me the single word 'Continue' or denote the
range of numbers we should employ. The moment seems opportune, as
after the recent action the opposition of the Nakhuda class seems to
have fizzled out & there is not likely to be an outcry. Mr Bower has
kindly consented to carry out the work of registration & the books
will be kept up by the Customs Director.
Major I.A. P.A. Bahrain.





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(3)

The Agency,
Bahrain, Persian Gulf.
3/2/24

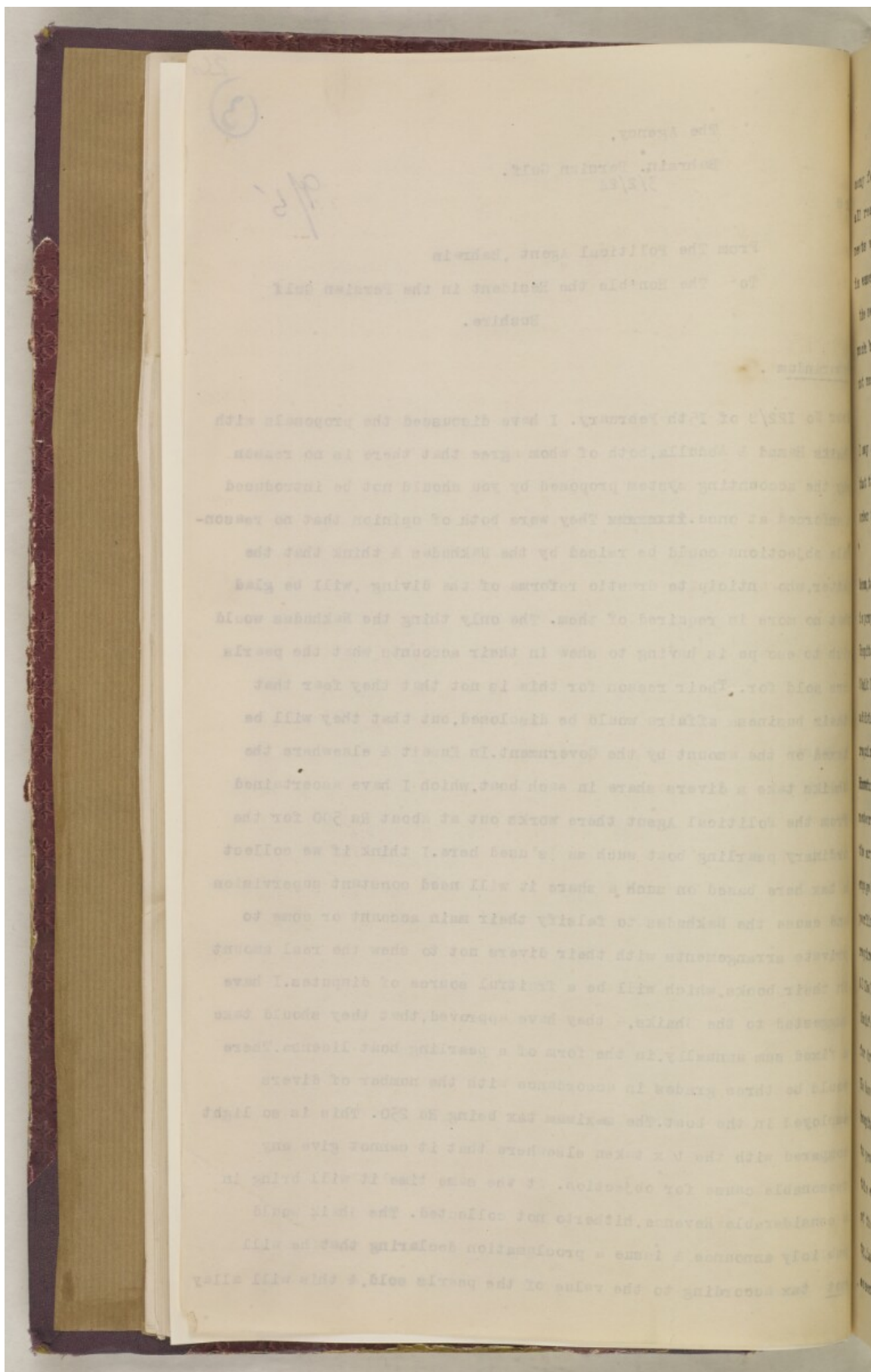
7/8

9/5

From The Political Agent, Bahrain
To The Hon'ble the Resident in the Persian Gulf
Bushire.

Memorandum .

Your No 122/S of 15th February. I have discussed the proposals with Shaiks Hamad & Abdulla, both of whom agree that there is no reason why the accounting system proposed by you should not be introduced & enforced at once. ~~xxxxxx~~ They were both of opinion that no reasonable objections could be raised by the Nakhudas & think that the latter, who anticipate drastic reforms of the diving, will be glad that no more is required of them. The only thing the Nakhudas would wish to escape is having to shew in their accounts what the pearls are sold for. Their reason for this is not that they fear that their business affairs would be disclosed, but that they will be taxed on the amount by the Government. In Kuwait & elsewhere the Shaiks take a divers share in each boat, which I have ascertained from the Political Agent there works out at about Rs 500 for the ordinary pearling boat such as is used here. I think if we collect a tax here based on such a share it will need constant supervision and cause the Nakhudas to falsify their main account or come to private arrangements with their divers not to shew the real amount in their books, which will be a fruitful source of disputes. I have suggested to the Shaiks, & they have approved, that they should take a fixed sum annually, in the form of a pearling boat license. There would be three grades in accordance with the number of divers employed in the boat. The maximum tax being Rs 250. This is so light compared with the tax taken elsewhere that it cannot give any reasonable cause for objection. At the same time it will bring in a considerable Revenue, hitherto not collected. The Shaik would publicly announce & issue a proclamation declaring that he will not tax according to the value of the pearls sold, & this will allay

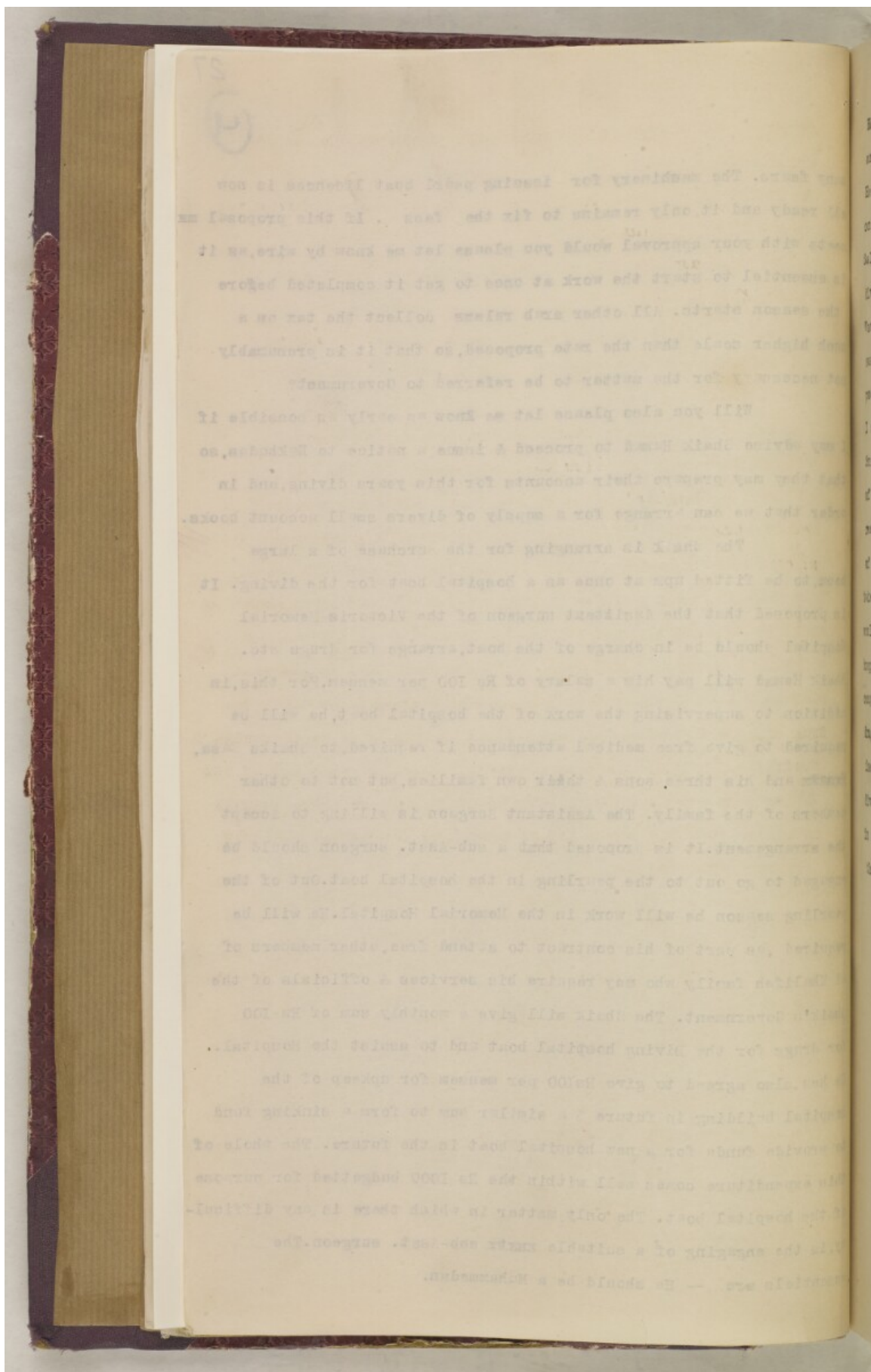




27
(4)
many fears. The machinery for issuing pearl boat licences is now all ready and it only remains to fix the fees. If this proposal meets with your approval would you please let me know by wire, as it is essential to start the work at once to get it completed before the season starts. All other arab rulers collect the tax on a much higher scale than the rate proposed, so that it is presumably not necessary for the matter to be referred to Government?

Will you also please let me know as early as possible if I may advise Shaik Hamad to proceed & issue a notice to Nakhudas, so that they may prepare their accounts for this years diving, and in order that we can arrange for a supply of divers small account books.

The Shaik is arranging for the purchase of a large boom, to be fitted up at once as a hospital boat for the diving. It is proposed that the Assistant surgeon of the Victoria Memorial Hospital should be in charge of the boat, arrange for drugs etc. Shaik Hamad will pay him a salary of Rs 100 per mensem. For this, in addition to supervising the work of the hospital boat, he will be required to give free medical attendance if required, to Shaiks Basa, ~~Kasir~~ and his three sons & their own families, but not to other members of the family. The Assistant Surgeon is willing to accept the arrangement. It is proposed that a sub-Asst. surgeon should be engaged to go out to the pearling in the hospital boat. Out of the pearling season he will work in the Memorial Hospital. He will be required, as part of his contract to attend free, other members of Al Khalifeh family who may require his services & officials of the Shaik's Government. The Shaik will give a monthly sum of Rs 100 for drugs for the Diving hospital boat and to assist the Hospital. He has also agreed to give Rs 100 per mensem for upkeep of the hospital building in future & a similar sum to form a sinking fund to provide funds for a new hospital boat in the future. The whole of this expenditure comes well within the Rs 1000 budgetted for purpose of the hospital boat. The only matter in which there is any difficulty, is the engaging of a suitable ~~Kasir~~ sub-Asst. surgeon. The essentials are -- He should be a Muhammedan.





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He must be a good sailor, preferably a man who has worked on a ship.

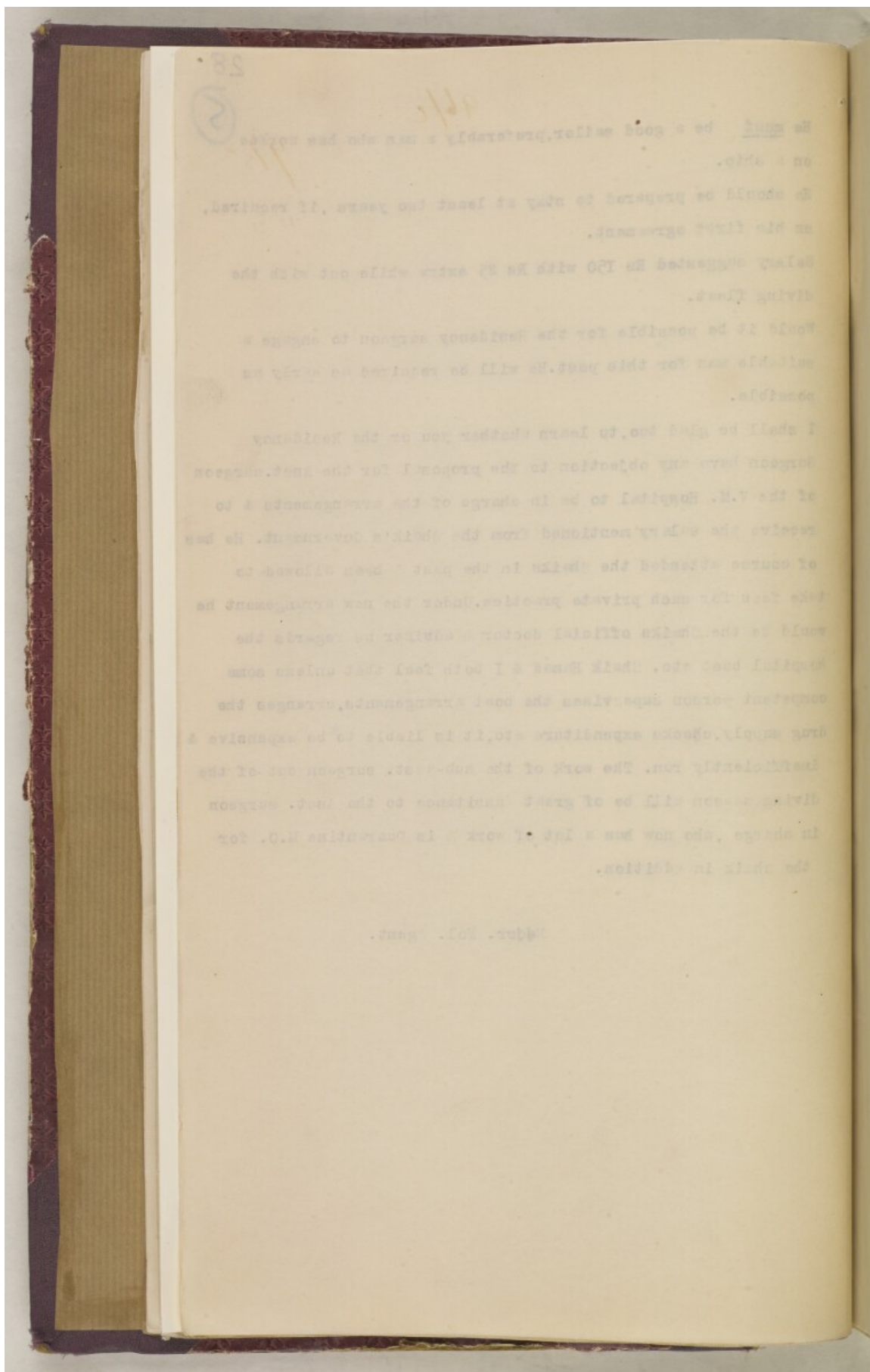
He should be prepared to stay at least two years, if required, on his first agreement.

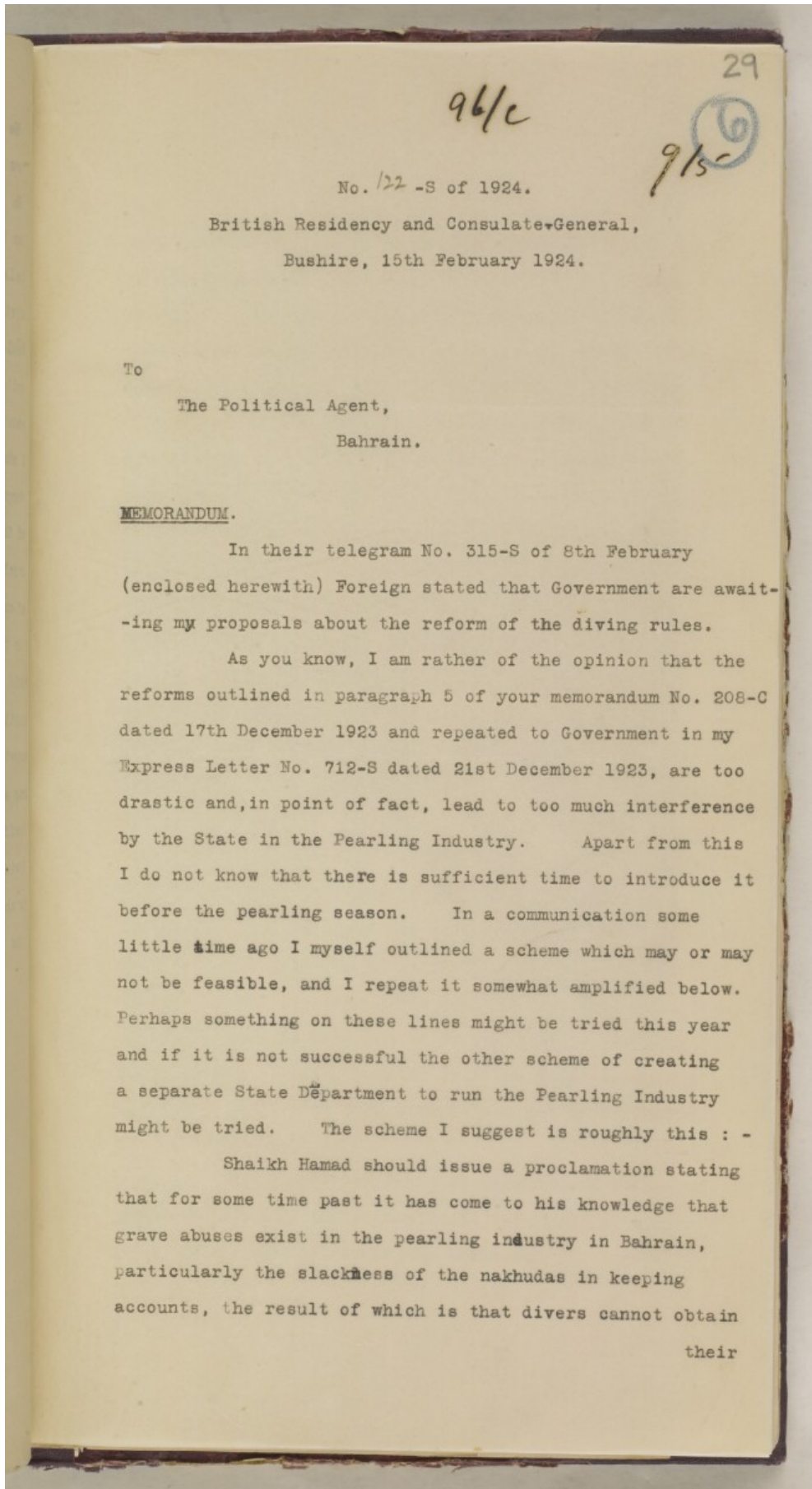
Salary suggested Rs 150 with Rs 25 extra while out with the diving fleet.

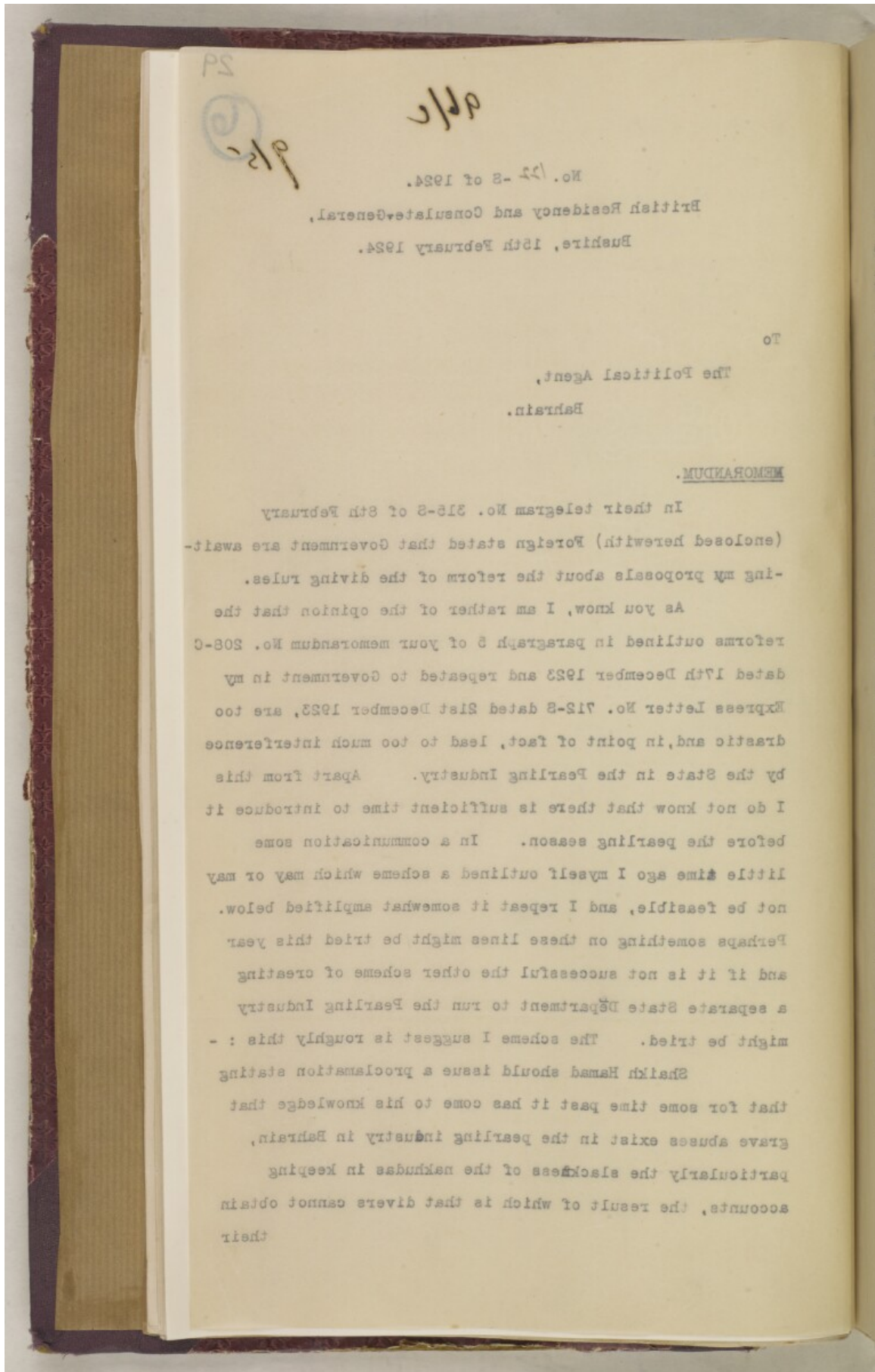
Would it be possible for the Residency surgeon to engage a suitable man for this post. He will be required as early as possible.

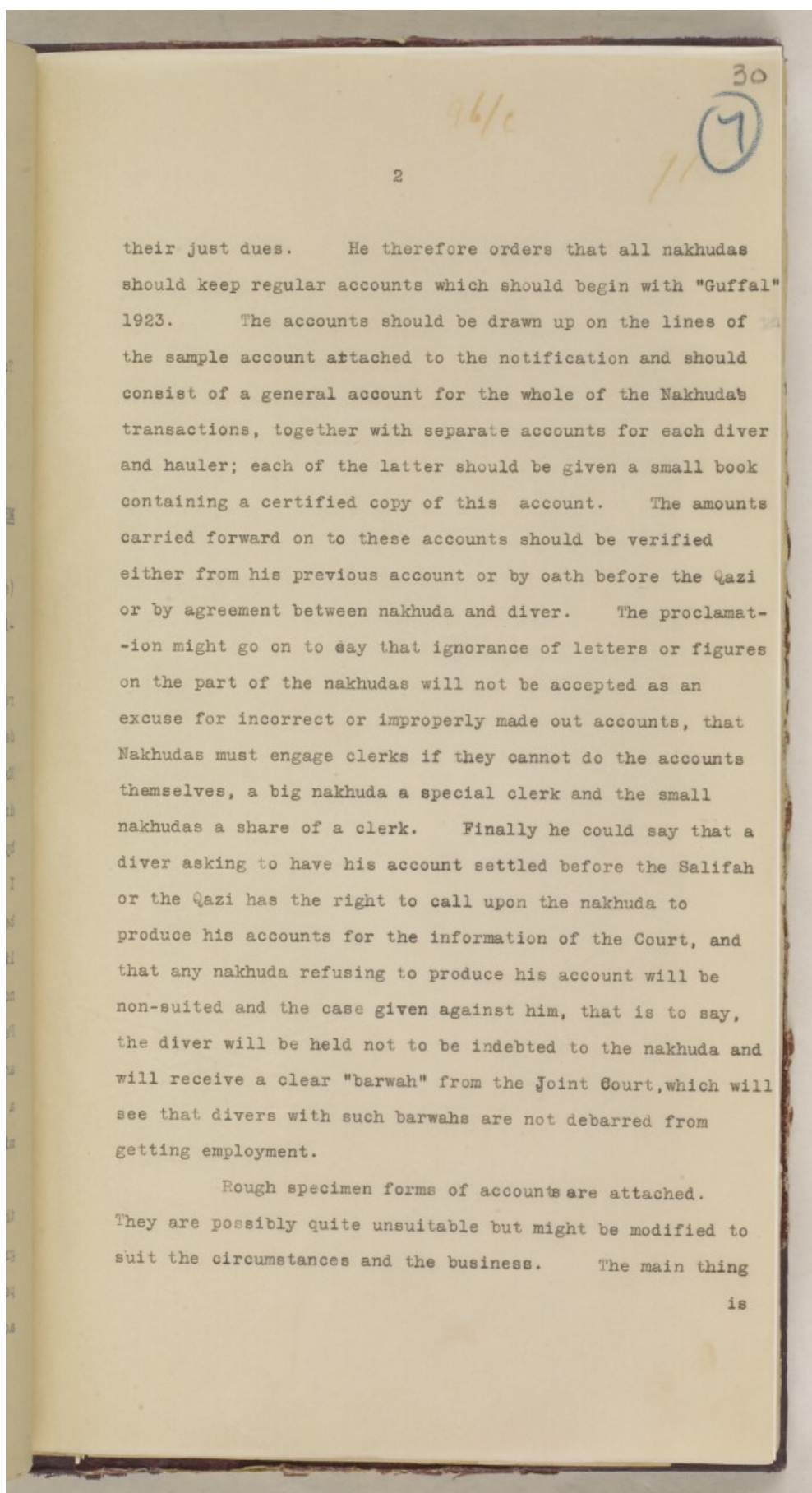
I shall be glad too, to learn whether you or the Residency Surgeon have any objection to the proposal for the Asst. surgeon of the V.M. Hospital to be in charge of the arrangements & to receive the salary mentioned from the Shaik's Government. He has of course attended the Shaiks in the past & been allowed to take fees for such private practice. Under the new arrangement he would be the Shaiks official doctor & adviser as regards the hospital boat etc. Shaik Hamad & I both feel that unless some competent person supervises the boat arrangements, arranges the drug supply, checks expenditure etc, it is liable to be expensive & inefficiently run. The work of the sub-asst. surgeon out of the diving season will be of great assistance to the Asst. surgeon in charge, who now has a lot of work & is Quarantine M.O. for the shaik in addition.

Maj. Pol. Agent.



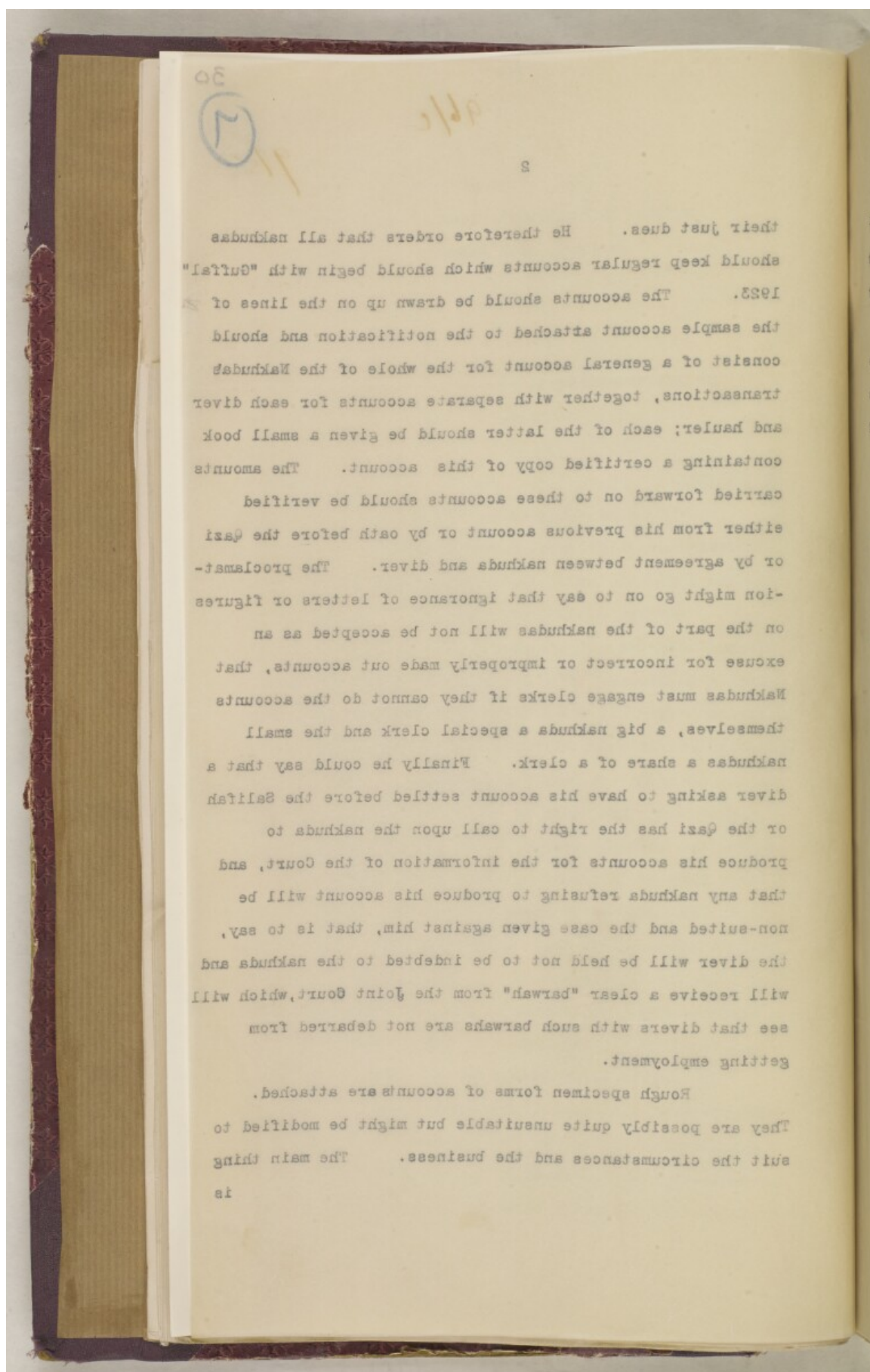


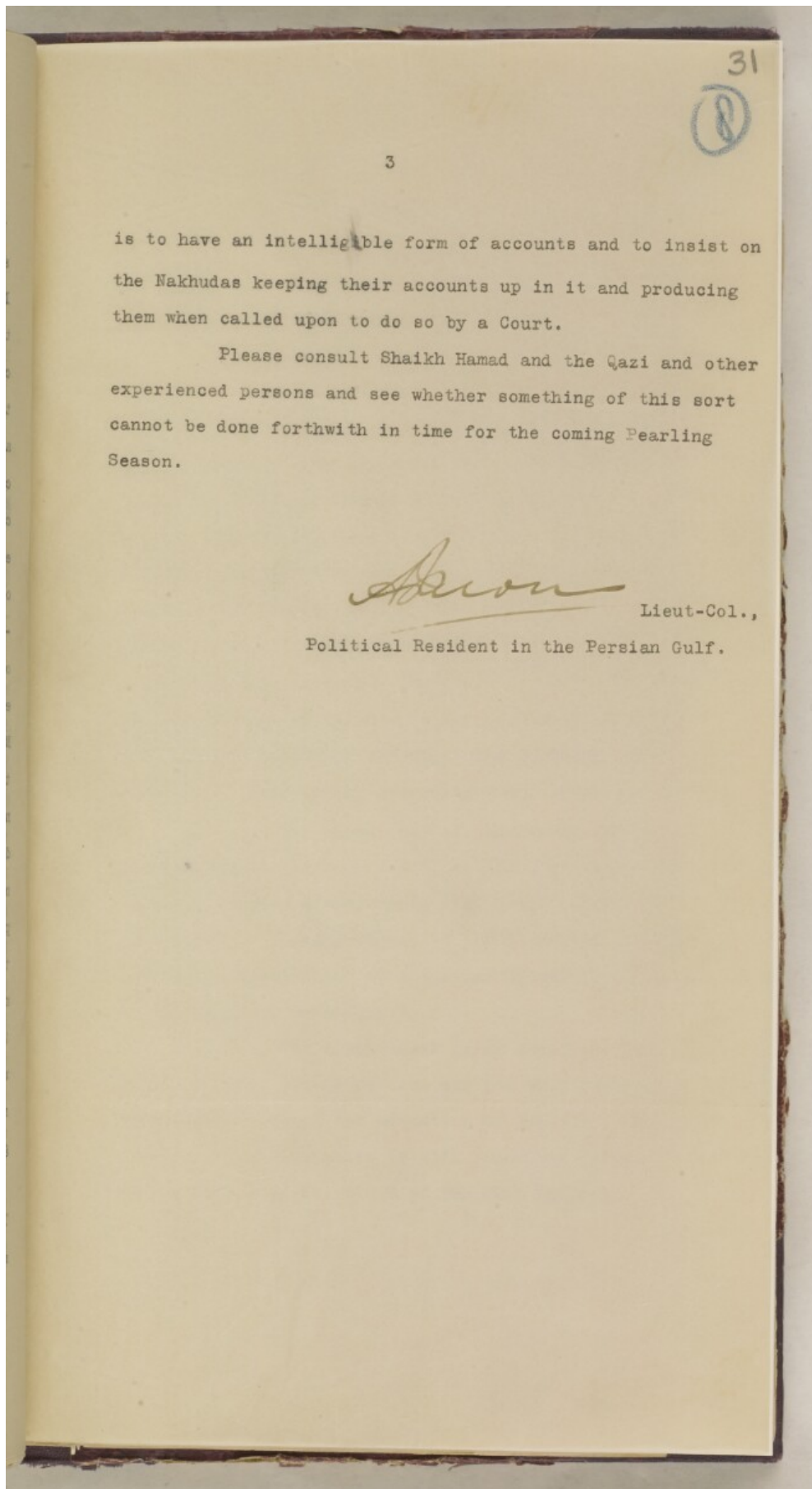




their just dues. He therefore orders that all nakhudas should keep regular accounts which should begin with "Guffal" 1923. The accounts should be drawn up on the lines of the sample account attached to the notification and should consist of a general account for the whole of the Nakhudas transactions, together with separate accounts for each diver and hauler; each of the latter should be given a small book containing a certified copy of this account. The amounts carried forward on to these accounts should be verified either from his previous account or by oath before the Qazi or by agreement between nakhuda and diver. The proclamation might go on to say that ignorance of letters or figures on the part of the nakhudas will not be accepted as an excuse for incorrect or improperly made out accounts, that Nakhudas must engage clerks if they cannot do the accounts themselves, a big nakhuda a special clerk and the small nakhudas a share of a clerk. Finally he could say that a diver asking to have his account settled before the Salifah or the Qazi has the right to call upon the nakhuda to produce his accounts for the information of the Court, and that any nakhuda refusing to produce his account will be non-suited and the case given against him, that is to say, the diver will be held not to be indebted to the nakhuda and will receive a clear "barwah" from the Joint Court, which will see that divers with such barwahs are not debarred from getting employment.

Rough specimen forms of accounts are attached. They are possibly quite unsuitable but might be modified to suit the circumstances and the business. The main thing is





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(8)

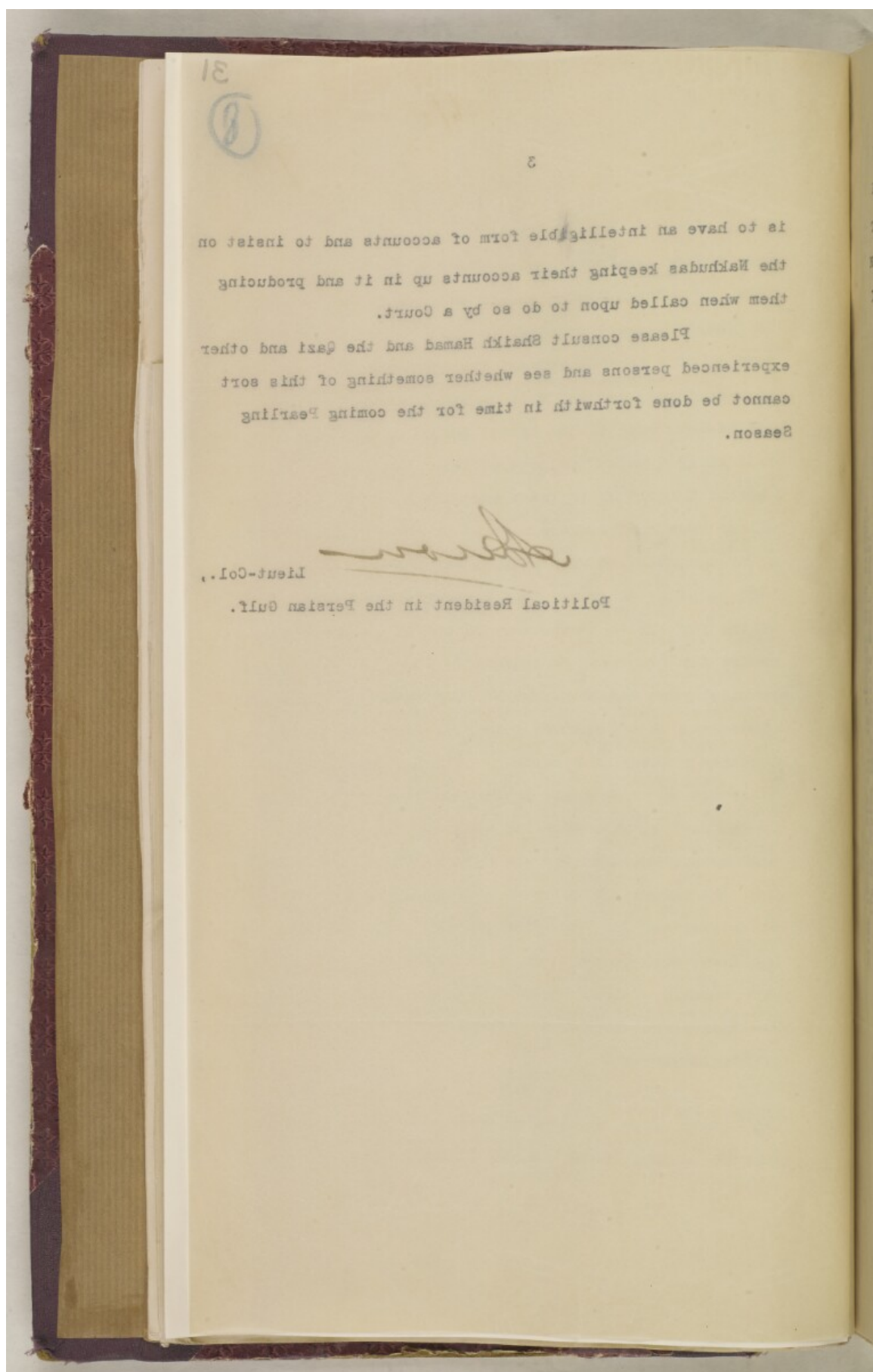
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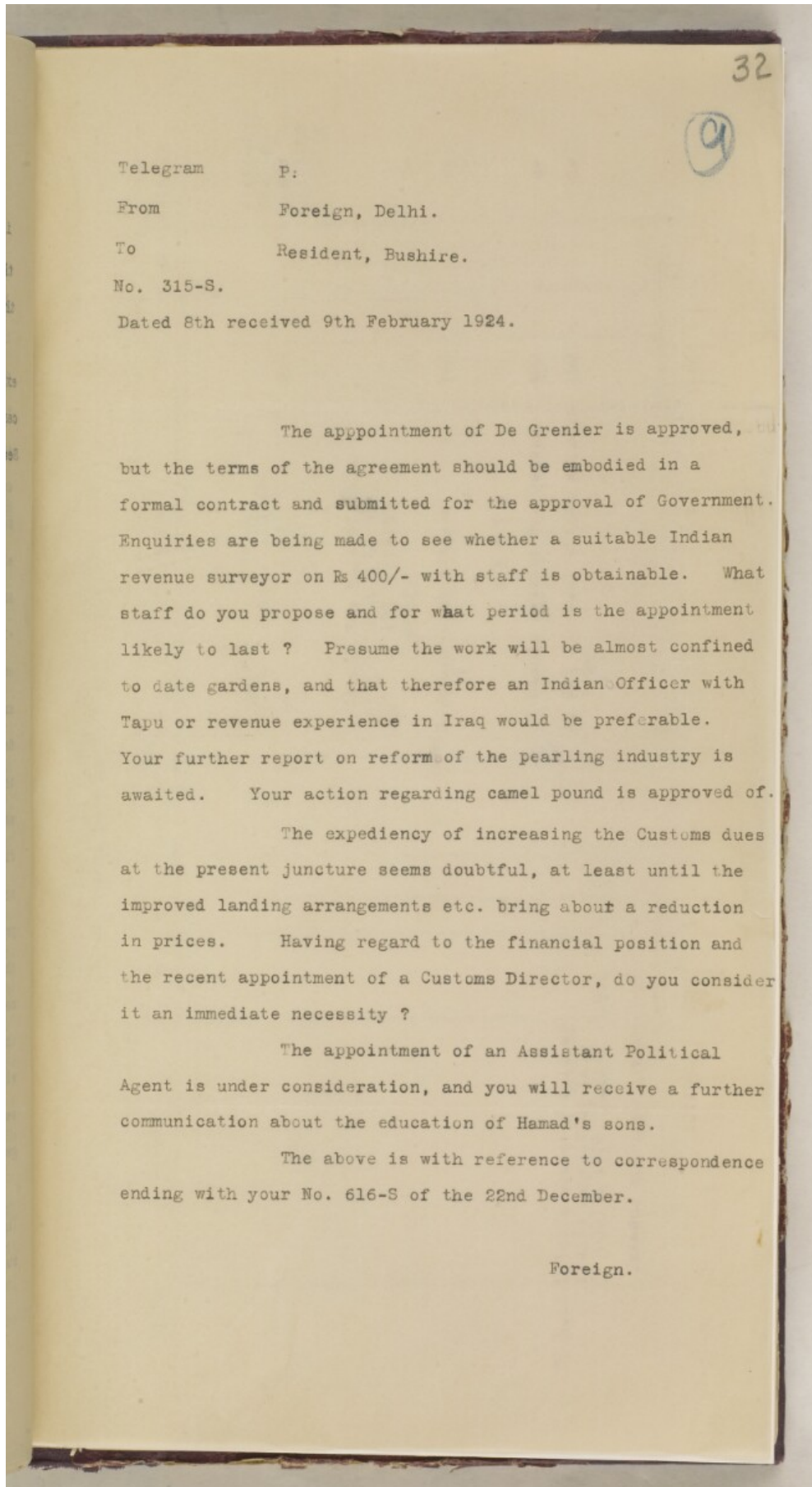
is to have an intelligible form of accounts and to insist on the Nakhudas keeping their accounts up in it and producing them when called upon to do so by a Court.

Please consult Shaikh Hamad and the Qazi and other experienced persons and see whether something of this sort cannot be done forthwith in time for the coming Pearling Season.

Lieut-Col.,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





Telegram P:
From Foreign, Delhi.
To Resident, Bushire.
No. 315-S.
Dated 8th received 9th February 1924.

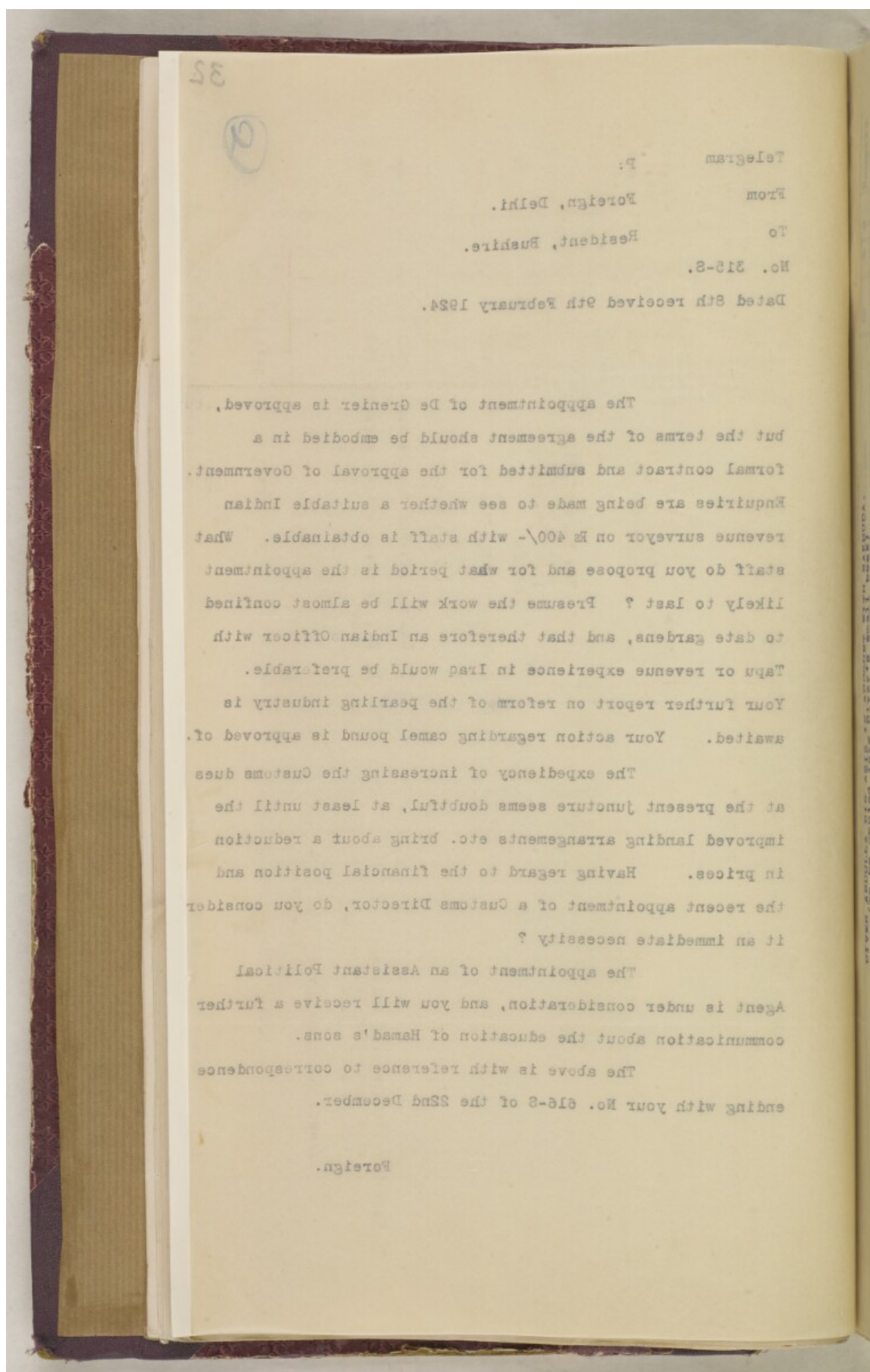
The appointment of De Grenier is approved, but the terms of the agreement should be embodied in a formal contract and submitted for the approval of Government. Enquiries are being made to see whether a suitable Indian revenue surveyor on Rs 400/- with staff is obtainable. What staff do you propose and for what period is the appointment likely to last? Presume the work will be almost confined to date gardens, and that therefore an Indian Officer with Tapu or revenue experience in Iraq would be preferable. Your further report on reform of the pearling industry is awaited. Your action regarding camel pound is approved of.

The expediency of increasing the Customs dues at the present juncture seems doubtful, at least until the improved landing arrangements etc. bring about a reduction in prices. Having regard to the financial position and the recent appointment of a Customs Director, do you consider it an immediate necessity?

The appointment of an Assistant Political Agent is under consideration, and you will receive a further communication about the education of Hamad's sons.

The above is with reference to correspondence ending with your No. 616-S of the 22nd December.

Foreign.





DIVER ABDULLA BIN AZIZ IN ACCOUNT WITH NAKHUDA.
(To be copied into Diver's small book)

| Date. | CREDIT | Rs | a | p | Remarks | Date | DEBIT | Rs | a | ap | Remarks |
|-----------|--|------|---|---|---------|-------------|---|------|---|----|--|
| | | | | | | 5 Rabi I | Balance due to Nak- -huda at Guffal 1341. | 950 | - | - | Signature seal or thumb im- pression of Diver. |
| | | | | | | 1 Jemadi I | Two bags of rice cost Rs 50 plus 12 1/2 % profit Rs 6 1/4. | 56 | 4 | - | de |
| | | | | | | 1 Jemadi II | Cash advance | 100 | - | - | de. |
| | | | | | | | x x x x x x | | | | |
| | | | | | | 13 Shabar | Advance for Qagbad | 300 | - | - | de |
| | | | | | | 15 Zil Haj | Next season advance | 150 | - | - | de |
| 25 Rabi I | Diver's share of sale of pearls (amounting to Rs 30,000) Rs 1500, paid | 1500 | - | - | | | | | | | |
| | Balance due from diver | 56 | 4 | - | | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL | 1556 | 4 | - | | | TOTAL | 1556 | 4 | - | |

(10) 33

View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100023321595.0x000054



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration' [34r] (84/434)

CASH ACCOUNT OF NAKHUDA ZAID BIN MUHAMMAD

| Date | RECEIPTS | Rs | a | p | Remarks | Date | EXPENDITURE | Rs | a | p | Remarks |
|--------------|--|--------|---|---|---------|--------------|--|------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 28 Rabi I | Recovered from divers on account of debts at Guffal (see subsidiary accounts 1, 2, 4, 8, 10.). | 10,000 | - | - | | 22 Rabi I | Paid to diver Hussain bin Mohamed | 900 | - | - | Signature seal or thumb im- |
| | | | | | | | " Diver Hassan bin Abdulla | 900 | - | - | -press |
| | | | | | | | " Khadhar bin Khamis | 900 | - | - | -ions of Hussain, |
| | | | | | | | " Hauler Aziz bin Abdul etc. etc. | 1600 | - | - | Hassan etc, |
| 21 Rabi I | By sale of pearls fished during season (Diver's share 900/- Hauler's share 600/-) | 20,000 | - | - | | 1 Jamadi | Advanced to Diver Abdulla bin Aziz two bags rice cost --- plus profit --- | | | | |
| | | | | | | 5th Jamadi | Advanced to Hauler Isa bin Zaid etc etc etc. | 200 | - | - | Sig. etc: |
| | | | | | | 13 Shabar | Advances for Raqbah Diver Ghulam Hussain bin Mohamed | 300 | - | - | Signatur -es etc |
| | | | | | | | " Hassan bin Zaid | 300 | - | - | of Ghulam |
| | | | | | | | " Abdul Aziz etc. etc. | 200 | - | - | etc. |

(11)

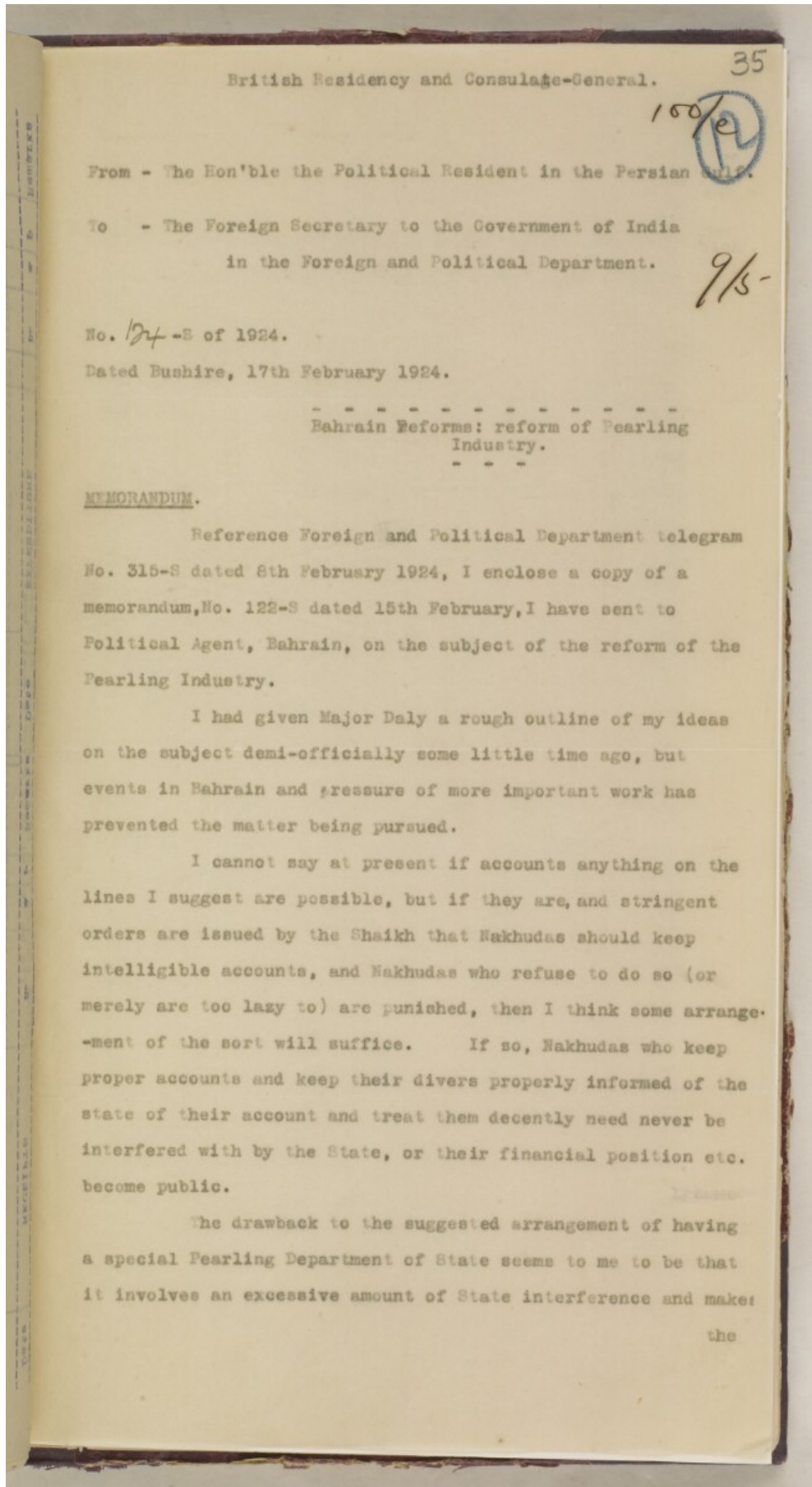
34



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration' [34v] (85/434)

| Bahrain Account of Hassan bin Muhammad | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------|---|---|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Date | RECEIPTS | Rs | a | p | Remarks | Date | EXPENDITURE | Rs | a p |
| 28 Rabi I | Recovered from divers an account of debts at Gulfai (see subsidiary accounts 1, 2, 4, 8, 10.). | 10,000 | - | - | | 28 Rabi I | Paid to diver Hassan bin Mohamed | 200 | - - |
| 28 Rabi I | By sale of pearls fished during season (Diver's share 200/- Hauler's share 800/-) | 20,000 | - | - | | " Diver Hassan bin Abdulla | 200 | - - | |
| | | | | | | " Khabbar bin Khamis | 200 | - - | |
| | | | | | | " Hauler Aziz bin Abdul600 etc. etc. | 200 | - - | |
| | | | | | | Advanced to Diver Abdulla bin Aziz two bars rice cost 100/- plus profit 100/- | | | |
| | | | | | | Advanced to Hauler Izz bin Aziz | 200 | - - | |
| | | | | | | Advances for Raddah Diver Ghulam Hassan bin Mohamed | 300 | - - | |
| | | | | | | " Hassan bin Aziz | 300 | - - | |
| | | | | | | " Abdul Aziz etc. etc. | 200 | - - | |

34



British Residency and Consulate-General.

35

From - The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To - The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department.

No. 124-S of 1924.

Dated Bushire, 17th February 1924.

Bahrain Reforms: reform of Pearling
Industry.

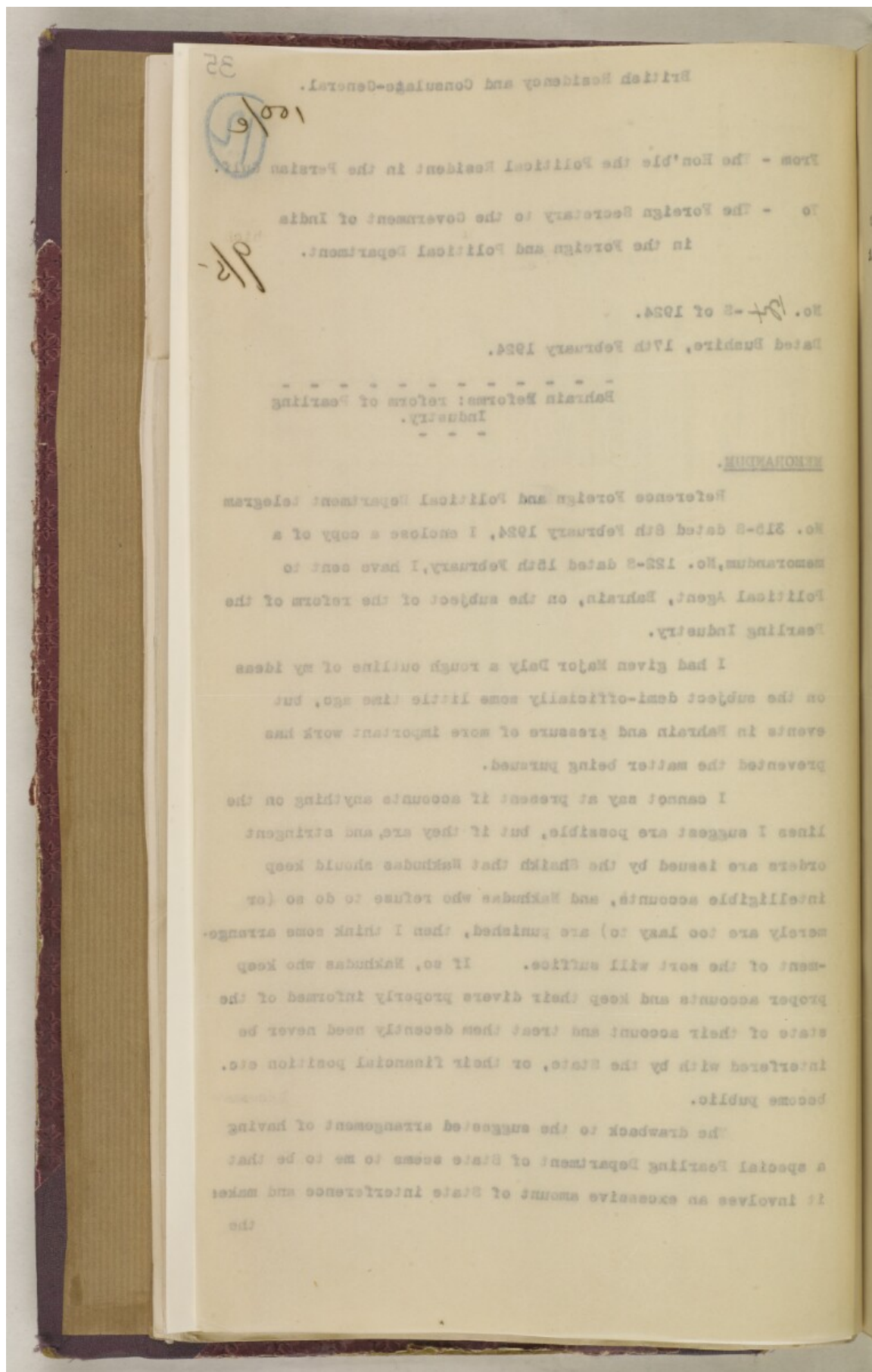
MEMORANDUM.

Reference Foreign and Political Department telegram
No. 315-S dated 8th February 1924, I enclose a copy of a
memorandum, No. 122-S dated 15th February, I have sent to
Political Agent, Bahrain, on the subject of the reform of the
Pearling Industry.

I had given Major Daly a rough outline of my ideas
on the subject demi-officially some little time ago, but
events in Bahrain and pressure of more important work has
prevented the matter being pursued.

I cannot say at present if accounts anything on the
lines I suggest are possible, but if they are, and stringent
orders are issued by the Shaikh that Nakhudas should keep
intelligible accounts, and Nakhudas who refuse to do so (or
merely are too lazy to) are punished, then I think some arrange-
ment of the sort will suffice. If so, Nakhudas who keep
proper accounts and keep their divers properly informed of the
state of their account and treat them decently need never be
interfered with by the State, or their financial position etc.
become public.

The drawback to the suggested arrangement of having
a special Pearling Department of State seems to me to be that
it involves an excessive amount of State interference and makes
the



the financial position of the Nakhudas public property, which in certain circumstances may easily affect them adversely.

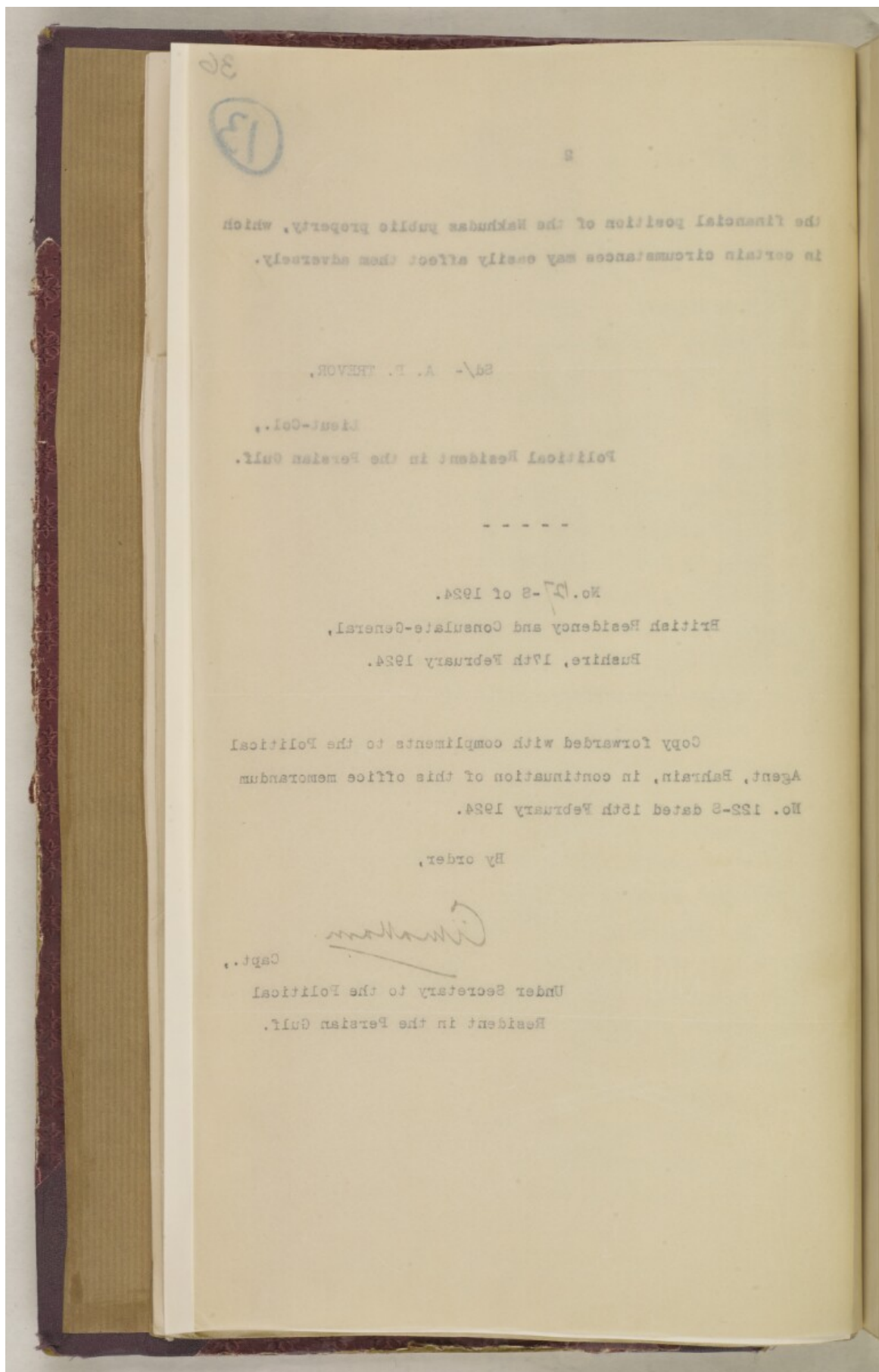
Sd/- A. P. TREVOR,

Lieut-Col.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No. 127-S of 1924.
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 17th February 1924.

Copy forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Bahrain, in continuation of this office memorandum No. 122-S dated 15th February 1924.

Cinnaman Capt.,
Under Secretary to the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf.





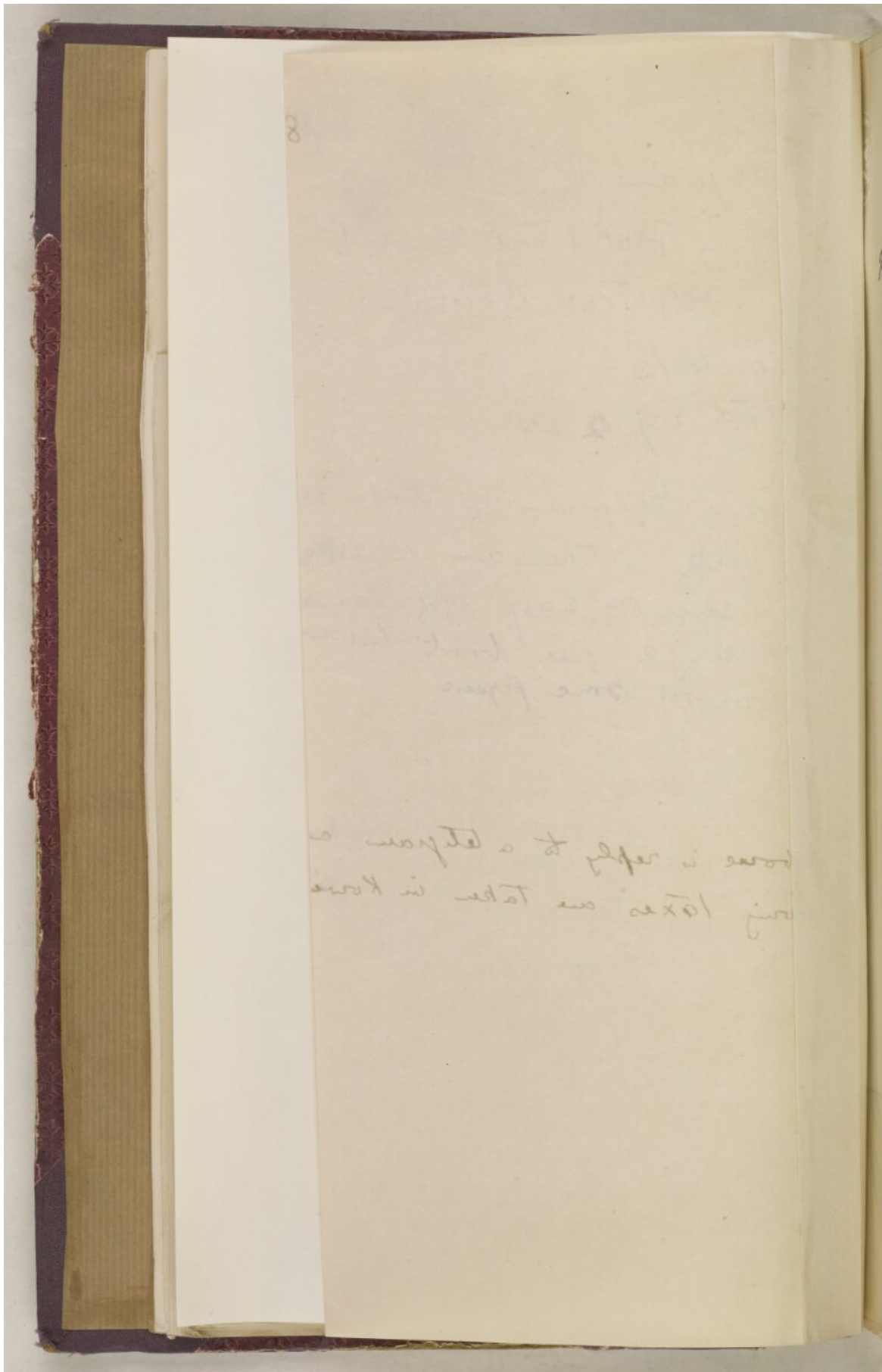
37

84/c
9/5- (14)

Telegram R.
From Political Kuwait
To Political Bahrain.
No 46/s
Dated 17.2.24

Your telegram of Feb 15th. The
Sheikh takes a divers share.
I cannot say off hand what is
average per boat but will try and
look out some figures

Above is reply to a telegram asking what
diving taxes are taken in Kuwait.





D.O. No. 58-S

108/c

POLITICAL AGENT
XXXXXX
K U W A I T.

28th February 1924.

9/5

My dear Daly

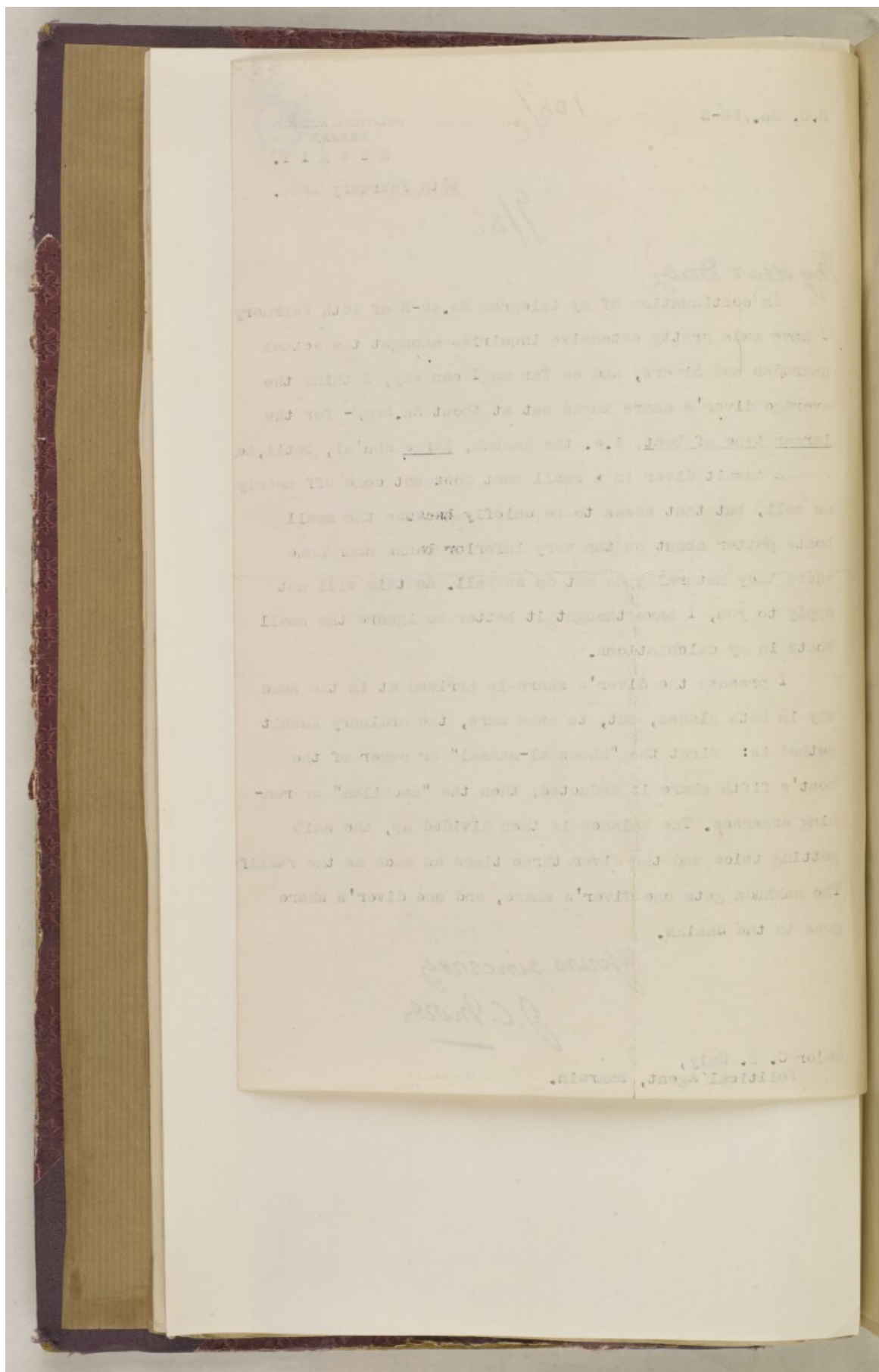
In continuation of my telegram No. 46-S of 16th February I have made pretty extensive inquiries amongst the actual nakhudas and divers, and as far as I can say, I think the average diver's share works out at about Rs. 500/- for the larger type of boat, i.e. the sambuk, large shu'ai, batil, &c.

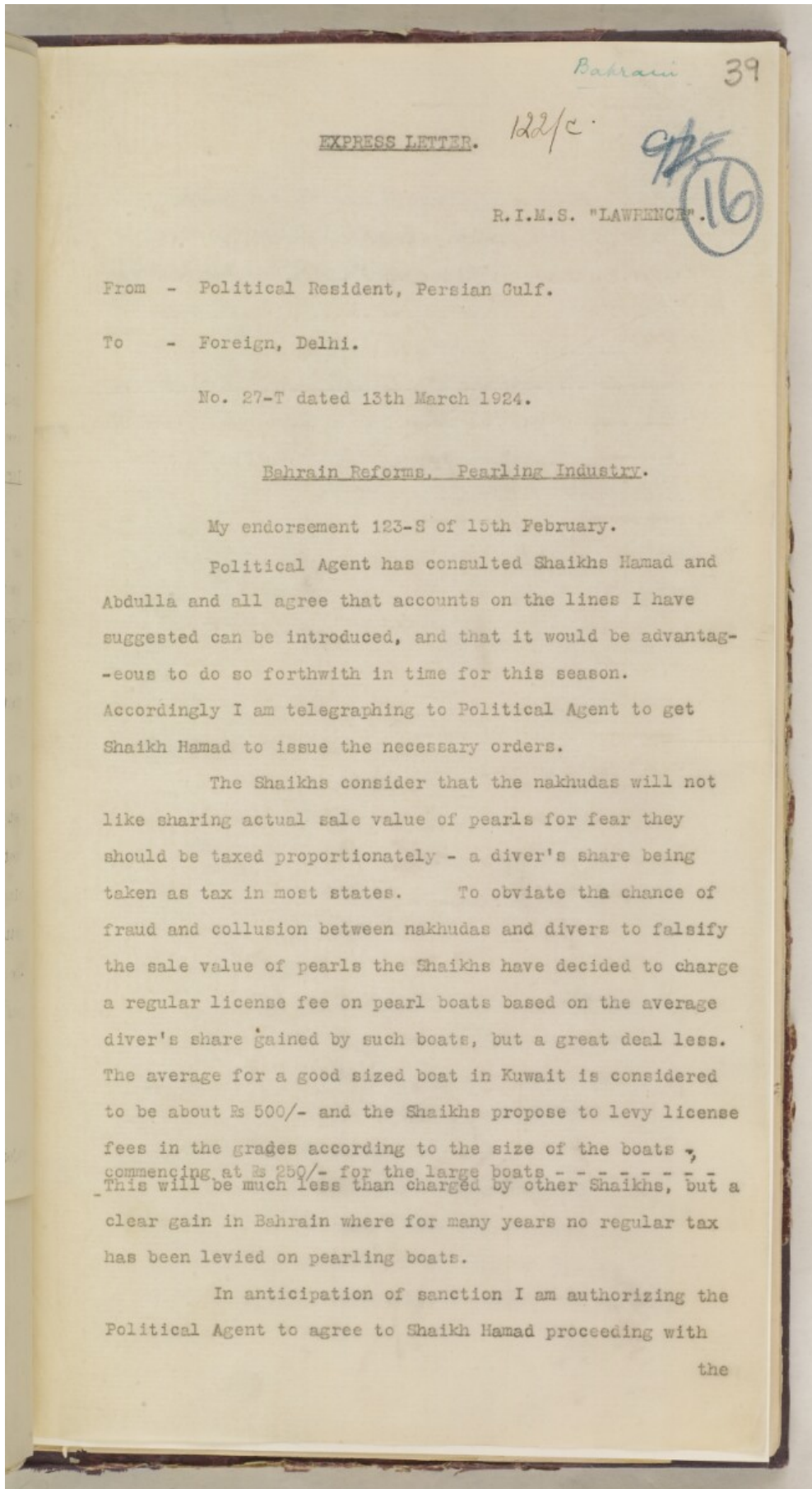
A Kuwait diver in a small boat does not come off nearly as well, but that seems to be chiefly because the small boats potter about on the very inferior banks near home where they naturally do not do so well. As this will not apply to you, I have thought it better to ignore the small boats in my calculations.

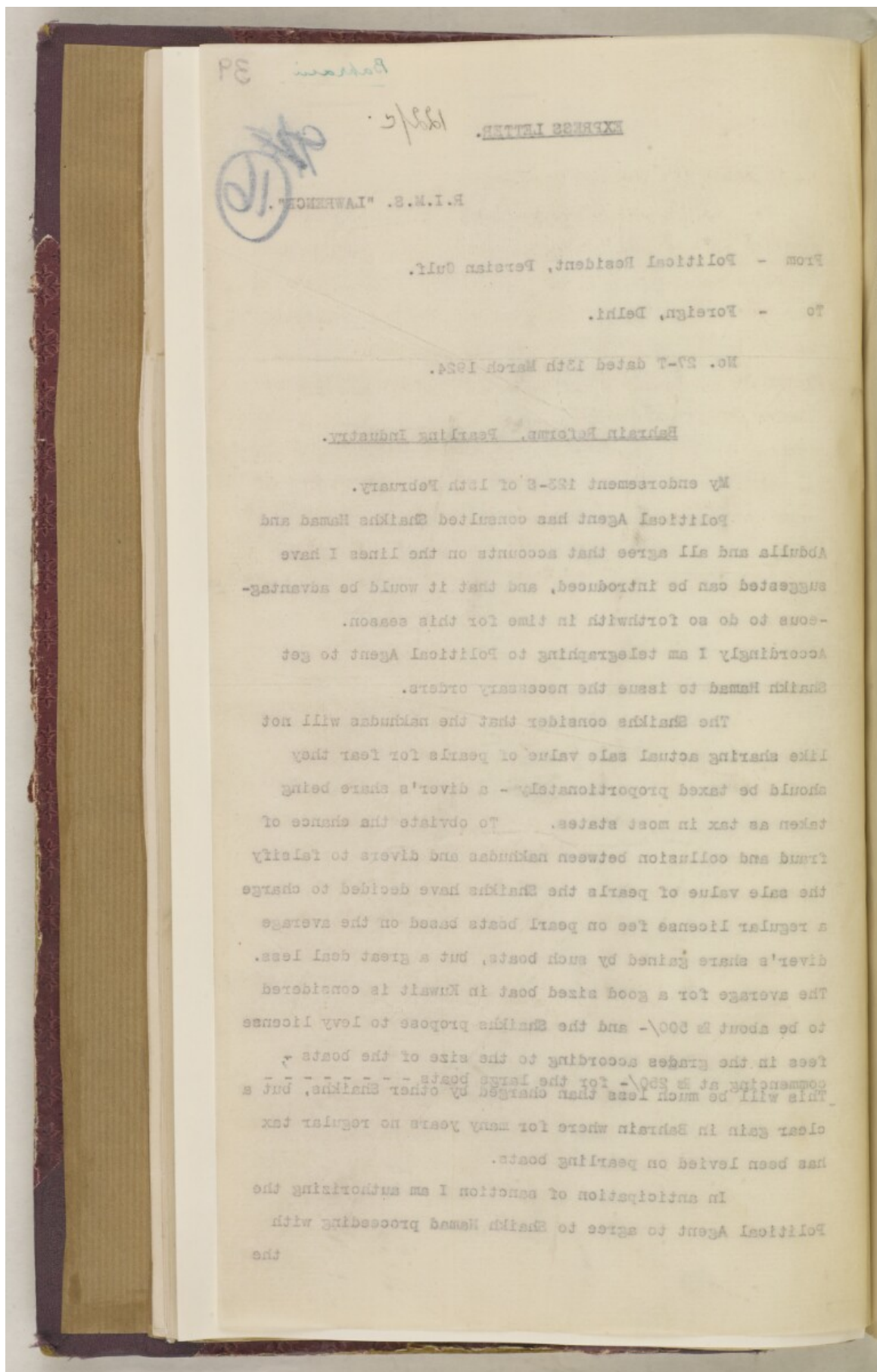
I presume the diver's share is arrived at in the same way in both places, but, to make sure, the ordinary Kuwait method is: first the "khums al-mahmal" or owner of the boat's fifth share is deducted; then the "machilah" or running expenses. The balance is then divided up, the saib getting twice, and the diver three times as much as the radhif. The nakhuda gets one diver's share, and one diver's share goes to the Shaikh.

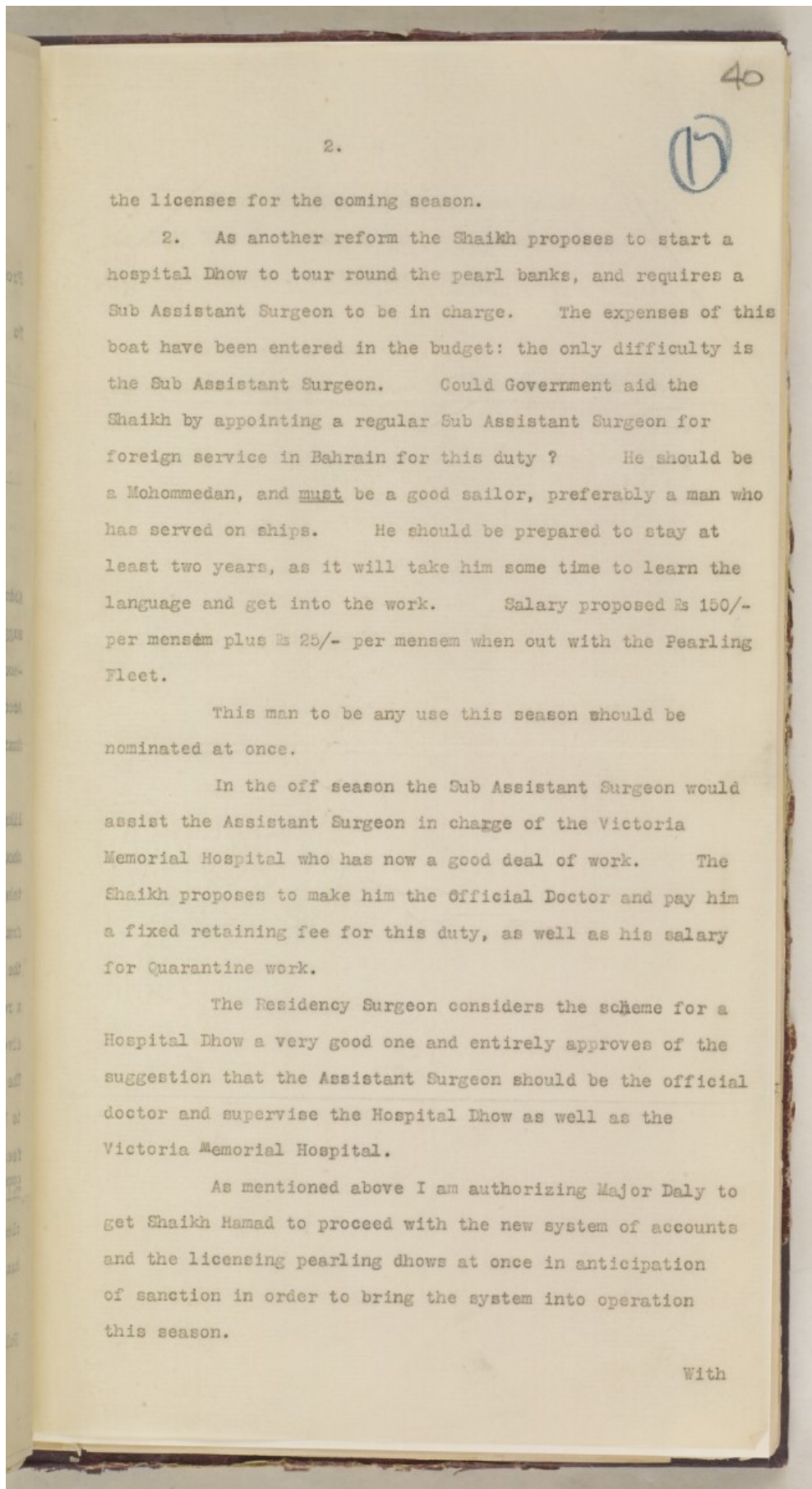
Yours sincerely
J.C. Moore

Major G. K. Daly,
Political Agent, Bahrain.









2.

the licenses for the coming season.

2. As another reform the Shaikh proposes to start a hospital Dhow to tour round the pearl banks, and requires a Sub Assistant Surgeon to be in charge. The expenses of this boat have been entered in the budget: the only difficulty is the Sub Assistant Surgeon. Could Government aid the Shaikh by appointing a regular Sub Assistant Surgeon for foreign service in Bahrain for this duty? He should be a Mohomedan, and must be a good sailor, preferably a man who has served on ships. He should be prepared to stay at least two years, as it will take him some time to learn the language and get into the work. Salary proposed Rs 150/- per mensem plus Rs 25/- per mensem when out with the Pearling Fleet.

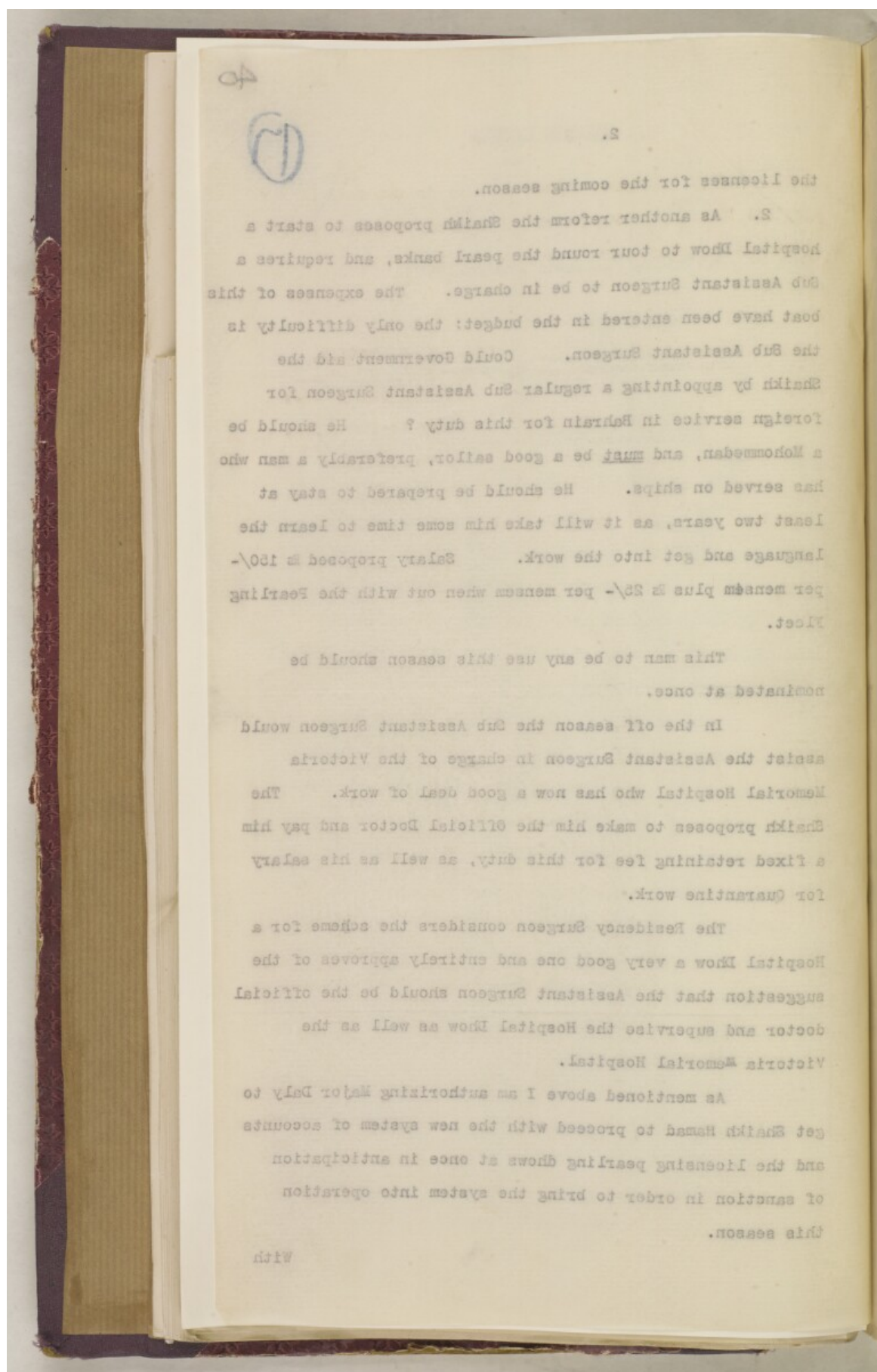
This man to be any use this season should be nominated at once.

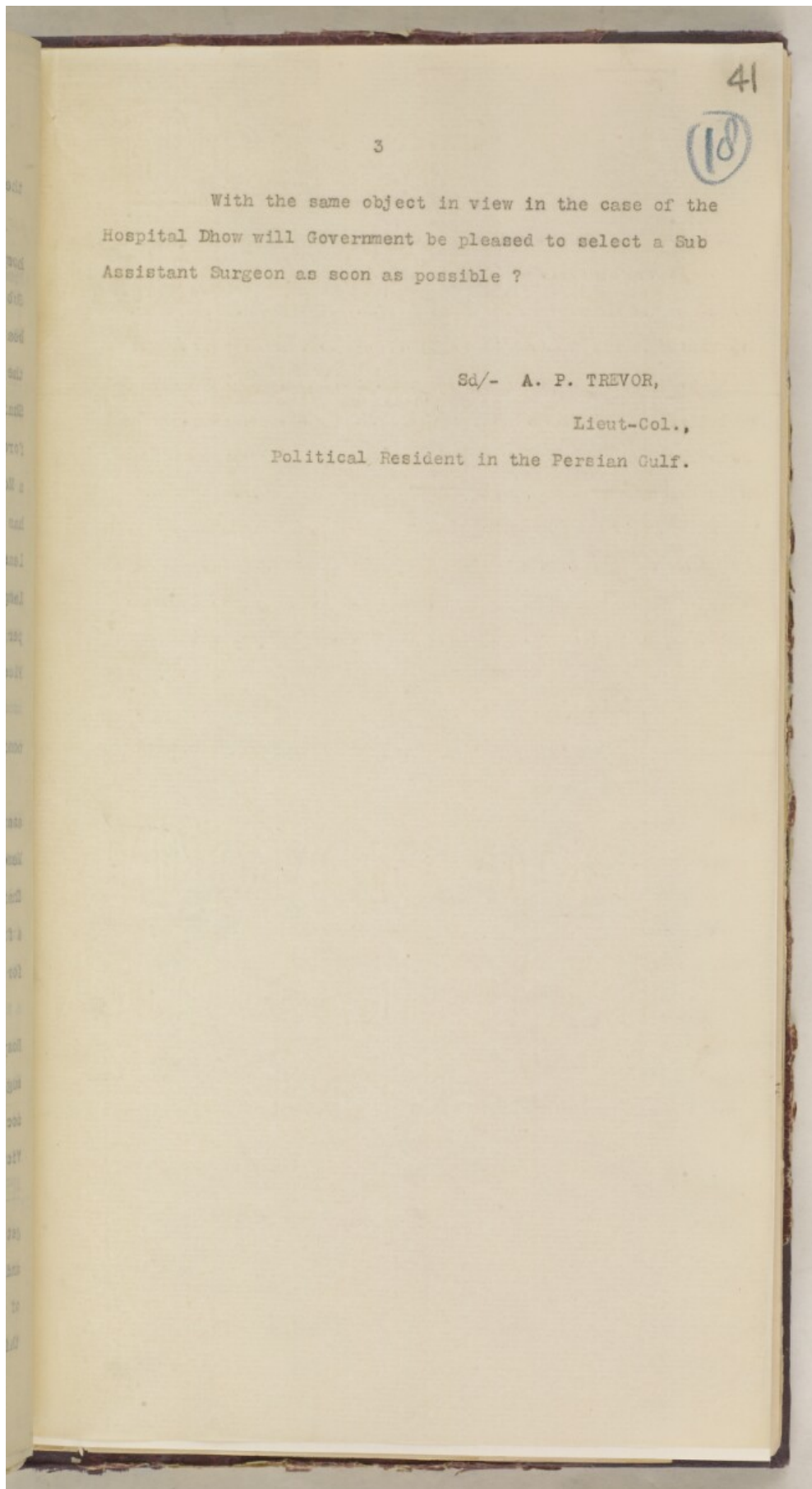
In the off season the Sub Assistant Surgeon would assist the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Victoria Memorial Hospital who has now a good deal of work. The Shaikh proposes to make him the Official Doctor and pay him a fixed retaining fee for this duty, as well as his salary for Quarantine work.

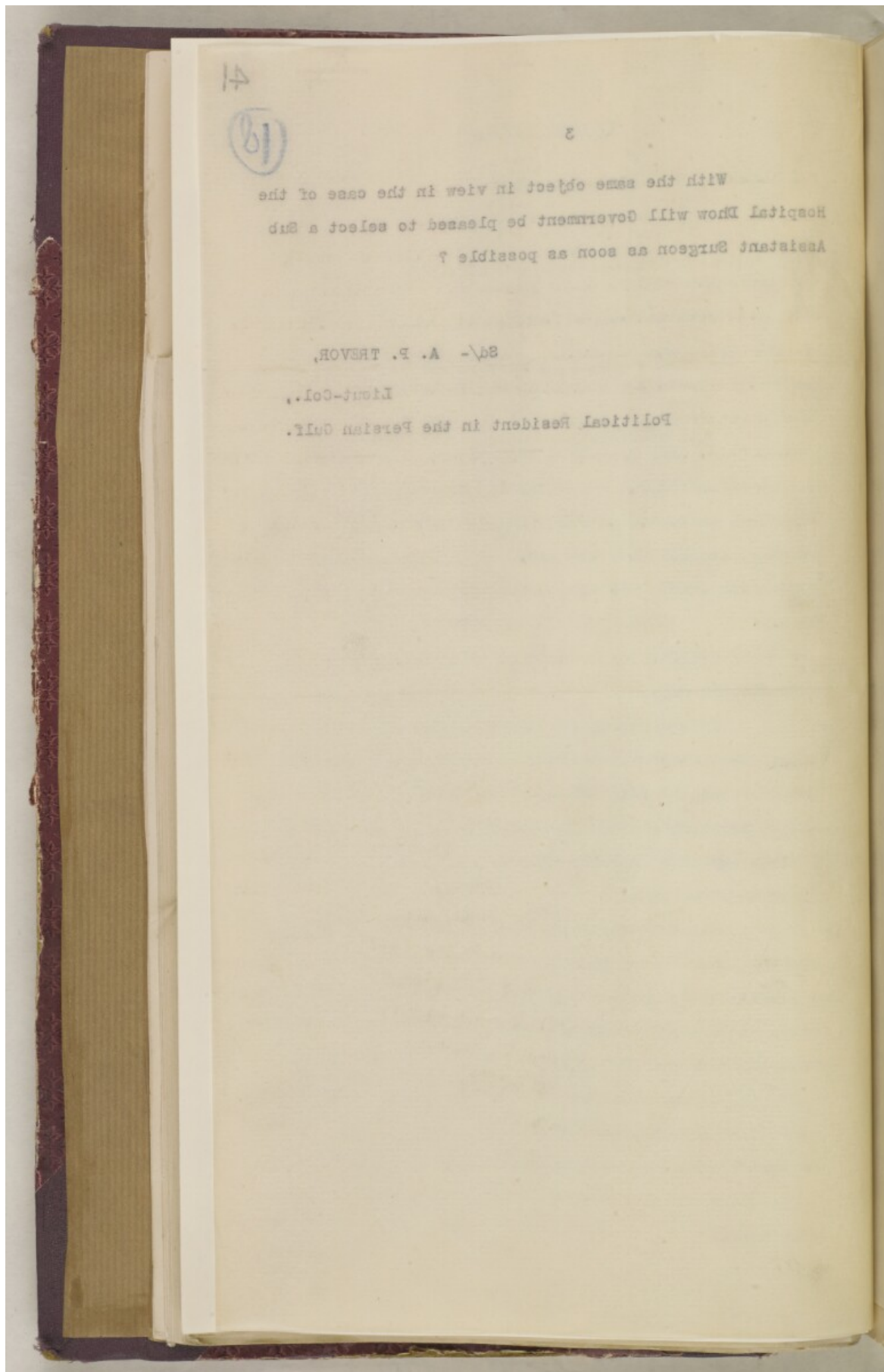
The Residency Surgeon considers the scheme for a Hospital Dhow a very good one and entirely approves of the suggestion that the Assistant Surgeon should be the official doctor and supervise the Hospital Dhow as well as the Victoria Memorial Hospital.

As mentioned above I am authorizing Major Daly to get Shaikh Hamad to proceed with the new system of accounts and the licensing pearling dhows at once in anticipation of sanction in order to bring the system into operation this season.

With

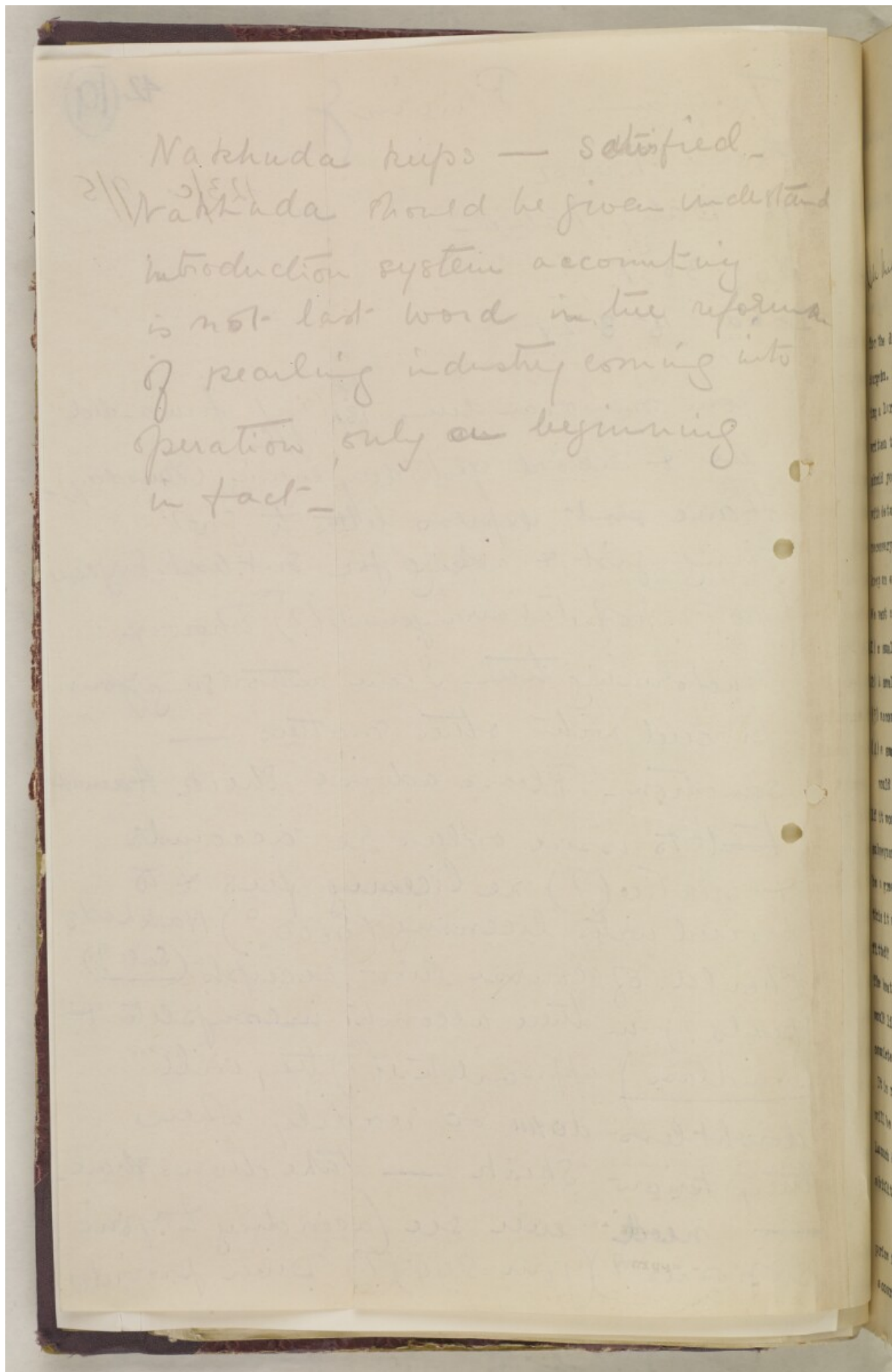








Telegram Priority 42 (19)
From Trevor
To Dalry Bahrain
No 30.T.
dated 15.8.24
123/c 9/5
Your memorandum ⁶⁸131(?) /c forwarded
me & received yesterday evening (Thursday).
Have sent express letter to Govt.
giving gist & asking for Int. Asst. Surgeon
(410?) Hospital arrangements(?) & show &
informing them I am authorising you
proceed with other matters —
sanction. Please advise Sheikh Hamad
to issue orders re accounts
& notice(?) re licensing fees & to
proceed with licensing (9600?) Nakhlads
should of course show receipts (Sale?)
(pearls?) in their accounts incomplete &
(windlass) approval but(?) they will
doubtless do so readily when
they know Sheikh — take divers share
— need ever see (according to your
proposals? (your 544)?) Diver provided



Naikhuda kups — satisfied.
2/ Naikhuda should be given understand
introduction system accounting
is not last word in the reforms
of pearling industry coming into
operation only as beginning
in fact —



43
(20)

The Political Agency
Bahrain.
Persian Gulf.
17/3/24

80/c
9/5

Dear Sir

The Ruler is anxious to start a small hospital ship for the diving this year & is arranging for drugs & an Assistant Surgeon. I write on his behalf to ask for your assistance in acquiring a large 'BOOM' of the type in use in Kuwait. Shaik Hamad has written to the Shaik of Kuwait to ask him to give you any assistance should you wish him to help & informing him that I have supplied you with details of what is required. I am sorry to trouble you, but it is necessary that someone who fully understands what is required should keep an eye on the matter for us.

We want a boat capable of holding -

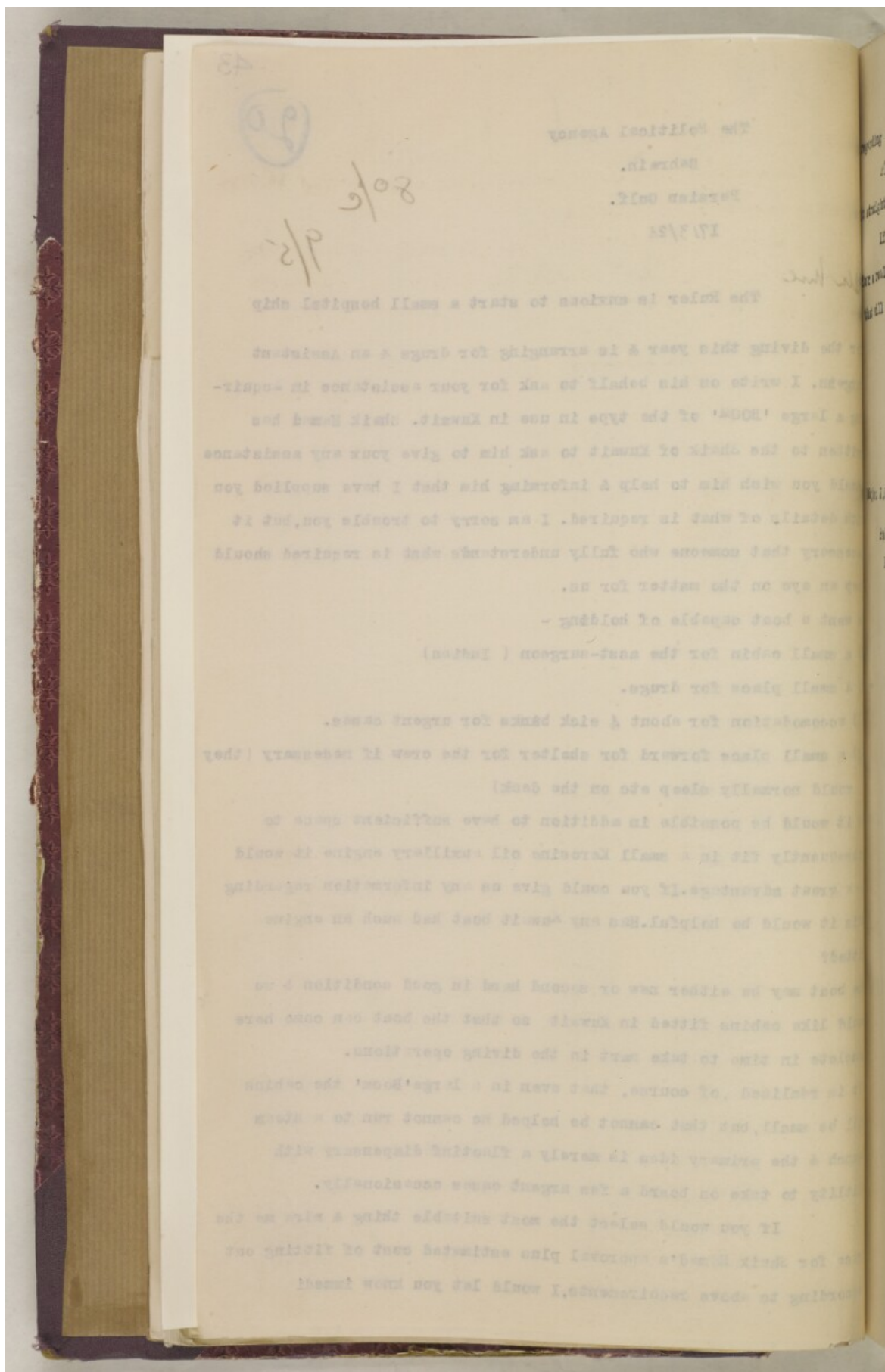
- 1) a small cabin for the asst-surgeon (Indian)
- 2) A small place for drugs.
- 3) accomodation for about 4 sick banks for urgent cases.
- 4) a small place forward for shelter for the crew if nedessary (they would normally sleep etc on the deck)

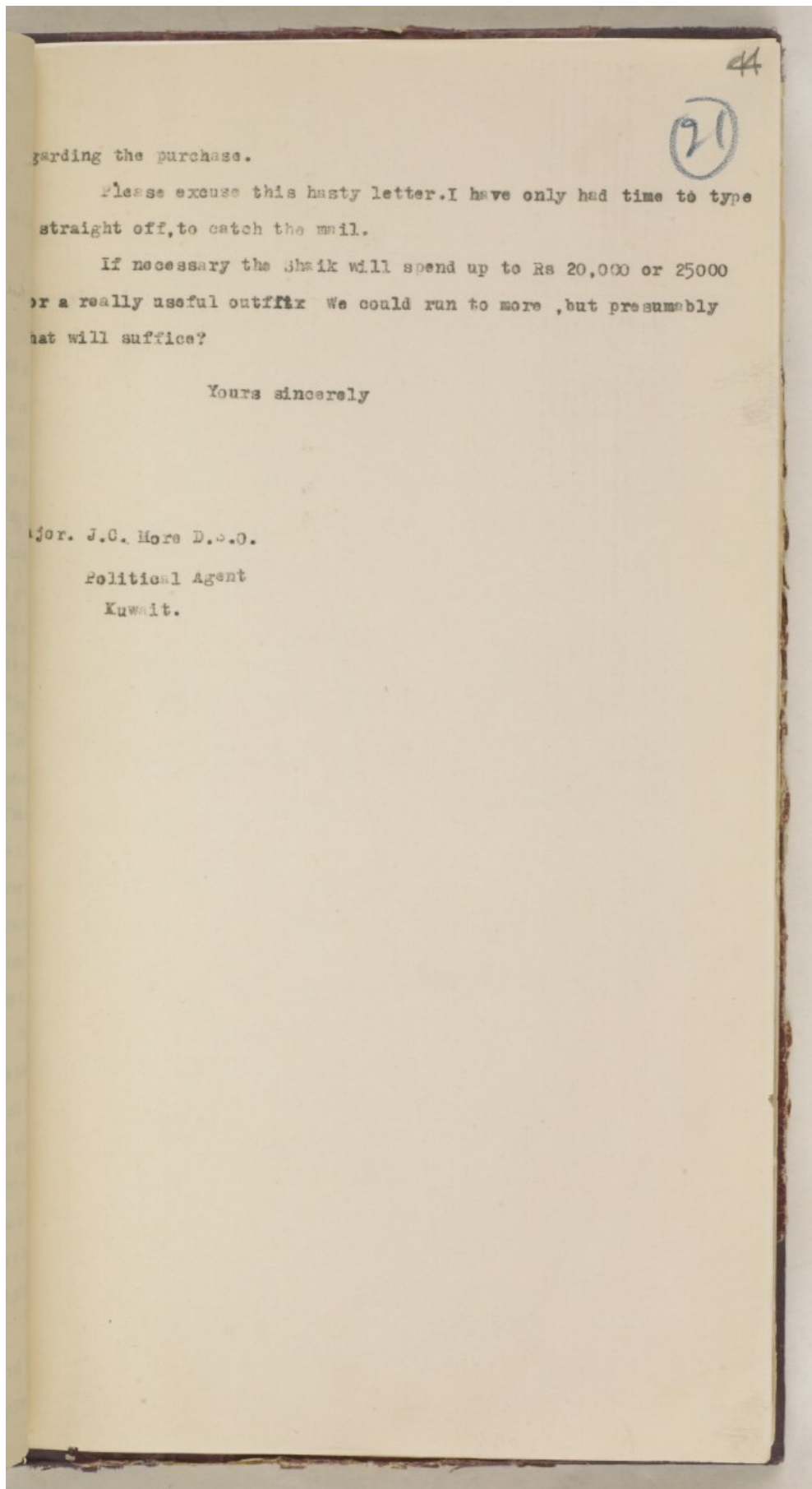
If it would be possible in addition to have sufficient space to subsequently fit in a small Kerosine oil auxillary engine it would be a great advantage. If you could give us any information regarding this it would be helpful. Has any Kuwait boat had such an engine fitted?

The boat may be either new or second hand in good condition & we would like cabins fitted in Kuwait so that the boat can come here complete in time to take part in the diving operations.

It is realised, of course, that even in a large 'Boom' the cabins will be small, but that cannot be helped we cannot run to a steam launch & the primary idea is merely a floatinf dispensary with ability to take on board a few urgent cases occasionally.

If you would select the most suitable thing & wire me the price for Shaik Hamad's approval plus estimated cost of fitting out according to above requirements, I would let you know immedi





regarding the purchase.

Please excuse this hasty letter. I have only had time to type straight off, to catch the mail.

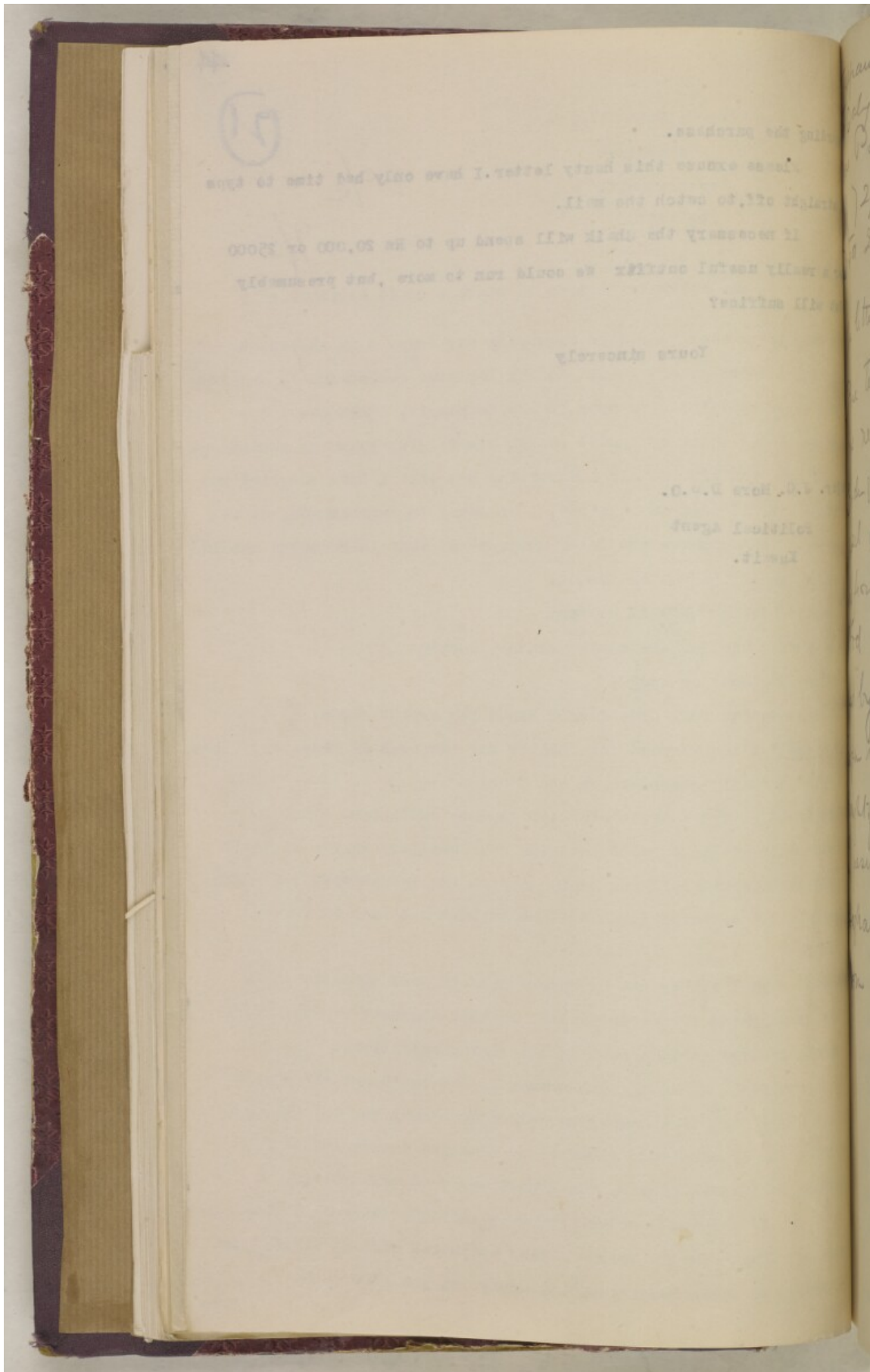
If necessary the Shaik will spend up to Rs 20,000 or 25000 for a really useful outfit. We could run to more, but presumably that will suffice?

Yours sincerely

Major. J.C. More D.S.O.

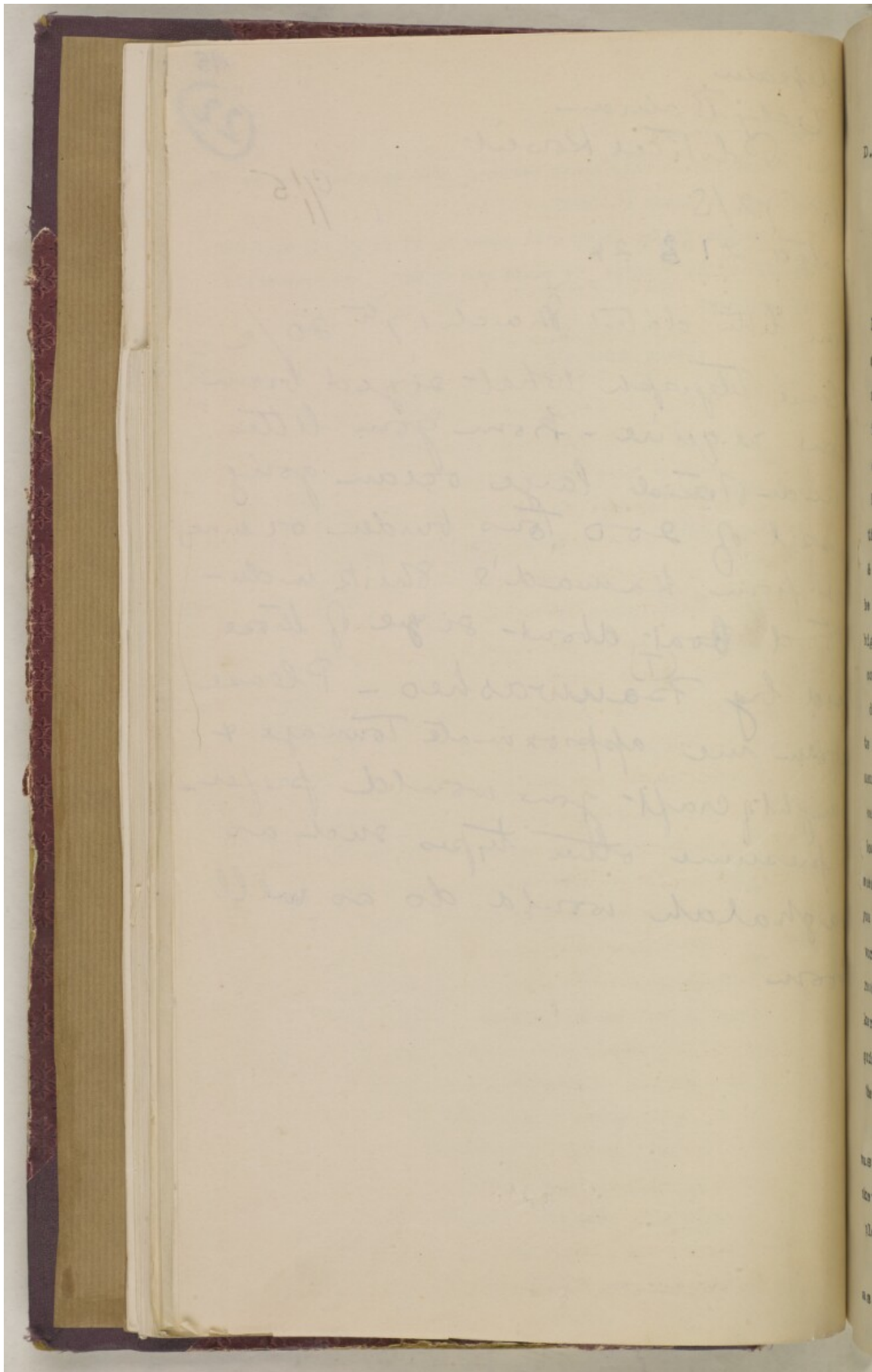
Political Agent

Kuwait.





45
(22)
9/5
elephant
Daly Bahrain
on Politics Kuwait
No 72/8
Dated 21.3.24.
on letter dated March 17th 20/c.
Please Telegraph what-sized boom
you require - from your letter
understand large ocean going
vessel of 200 tons burden or more
at from Hamad's Shik under-
wood boat about-size of those
aid by ^(T) Sawwasheo - Please
form me approximate Tonnage &
night-craft you would prefer -
presume other types such as
aghalah would do as well
som





The Agency,
Bahrain. Persian Gulf.
22/3/24

46

9/5 (23)

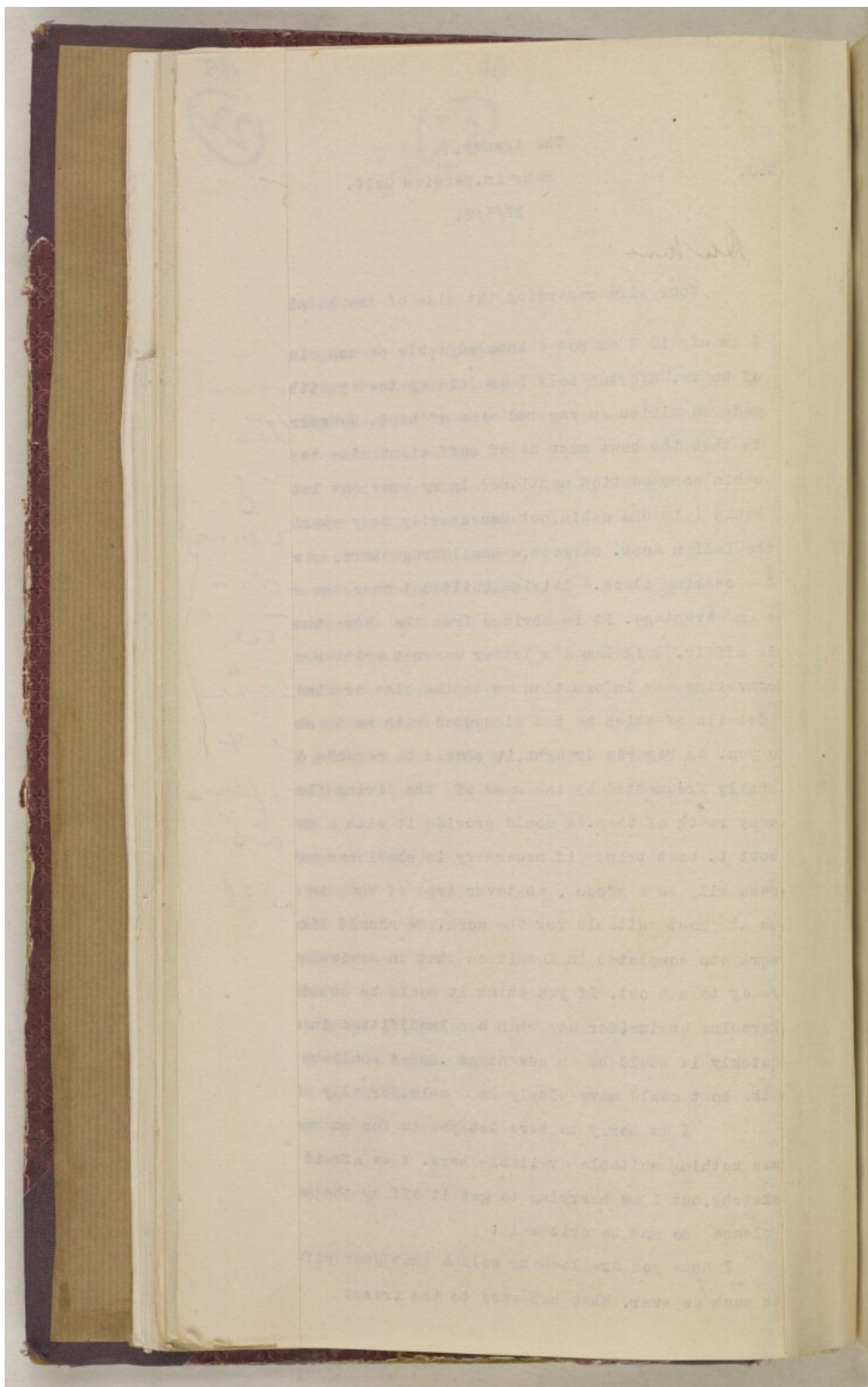
Dear Mr. ...

Your wire regarding the size of the hospital Boom .

I am afraid I am not a knowledgeable person in regard to the tonnage of boats. Unfortunately I am laid up to-day with fever or I would have made enquiries as regards size of boat. However the important point is that the boat must be of sufficient size to be able to have the cabin accommodation mentioned in my previous letter viz. Four sick bunks (in one cabin, not necessarily very spacious) a small cabin for the Indian Asst. surgeon, a small drug store, some shelter for the crew, & a cooking place. A latrine built out over the stern or side would also be an advantage. It is obvious from the above that it must be a pretty big affair. Sheik Hamad's letter was not written with the intention of conveying any information as to the size or kind of boat required, the details of which he had discussed with me & asked me to write fully to you. As regards draught, it should be capable of going in the waters usually frequented by the mass of the diving fleet, so as to be within easy reach of them. We could provide it with a small boat to make boat to boat trips, if necessary in shallower water. It need not necessarily be a boom, whatever type of boat is available & seems to you the most suitable for the work. We should like to have the cabin work etc completed in Kuwait so that on arrival here she would be ready to set out. If you think it would be possible to get a small kerosine engine (for use when becalmed) fitted in at Basra fairly quickly it would be an advantage. Speed would be immaterial provided the boat could move slowly in a calm. Normally she would sail.

I am sorry to have let you in for so much trouble but there was nothing suitable available here. I am afraid this letter is very sketchy, but I am hurrying to get it off by the mail & am not fit, so please do not be critical !

I hope you are keeping well & that your wife still likes Kuwait as much as ever. What happened to the trees?





47
89/c (94)

The Agency.
Bahrain. Persian Gulf.
31/3/24

CONFIDENTIAL.

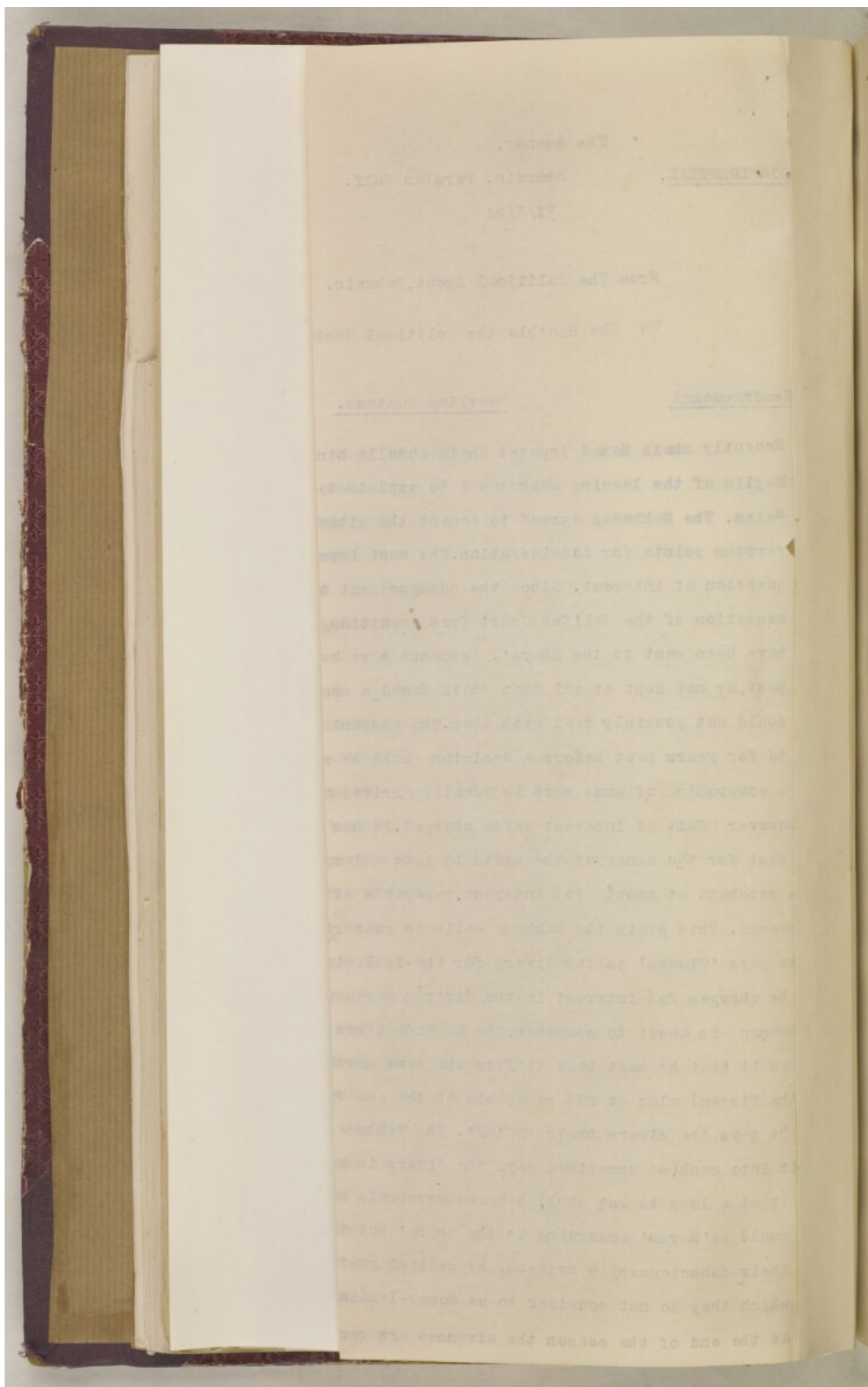
From The Political Agent, Bahrain.
To The Hon'ble the Political Resident, Bushire.

9/5-

NonStandard Pearling Customs.

Recently Shaik Hamad deputed Shaik Abdulla bin Raga to convene a Majlis of the leading Nakhudas & to explain to them the new licensing Rules. The Nakhudas agreed to accept the situation, but brought up various points for consideration. The most important of these was the question of interest. Since the commencement of the reforms & the cessation of the Salifah Court from ~~transition~~ ^{transition}, cases regarding accounts have been sent to the Shara'. Accounts have been so badly kept in the past, or not kept at all, that Shaik Hamad's court, or the Joint Court, could not possibly deal with them. The accounts often required going in to for years past before a decision could be reached. In the Shara court a compromise of some sort is usually arrived at. The Shara does not however admit of interest being charged. It has been the custom in the past for the owners of the boats to take a large advance of grain from a merchant at about 20% interest, repayable after the end of the next season. This grain the Nakhuda sells to convert ^{it} into cash with which he pays 'Tisqam' to the divers for the following season. On each advance he charges 20% interest in the diver's account. Similarly when the season is about to commence, the Nakhuda takes another advance (& custom has it that he must take it from the same merchant who advanced him for the Tisqam) also at 20% repayable at the end of the season. With this he pays the divers their 'Salaf'. The Nakhuda buys grain & converts it into cash (or sometimes pays the divers in kind & they have to sell it at a loss to get cash) because merchants will not advance cash, which would be 'Haram' according to the Shara' but they are able to satisfy their consciences (& pockets) by selling grain at exorbitant interest, which they do not consider to be money-lending.

At the end of the season the advances are recovered from the divers



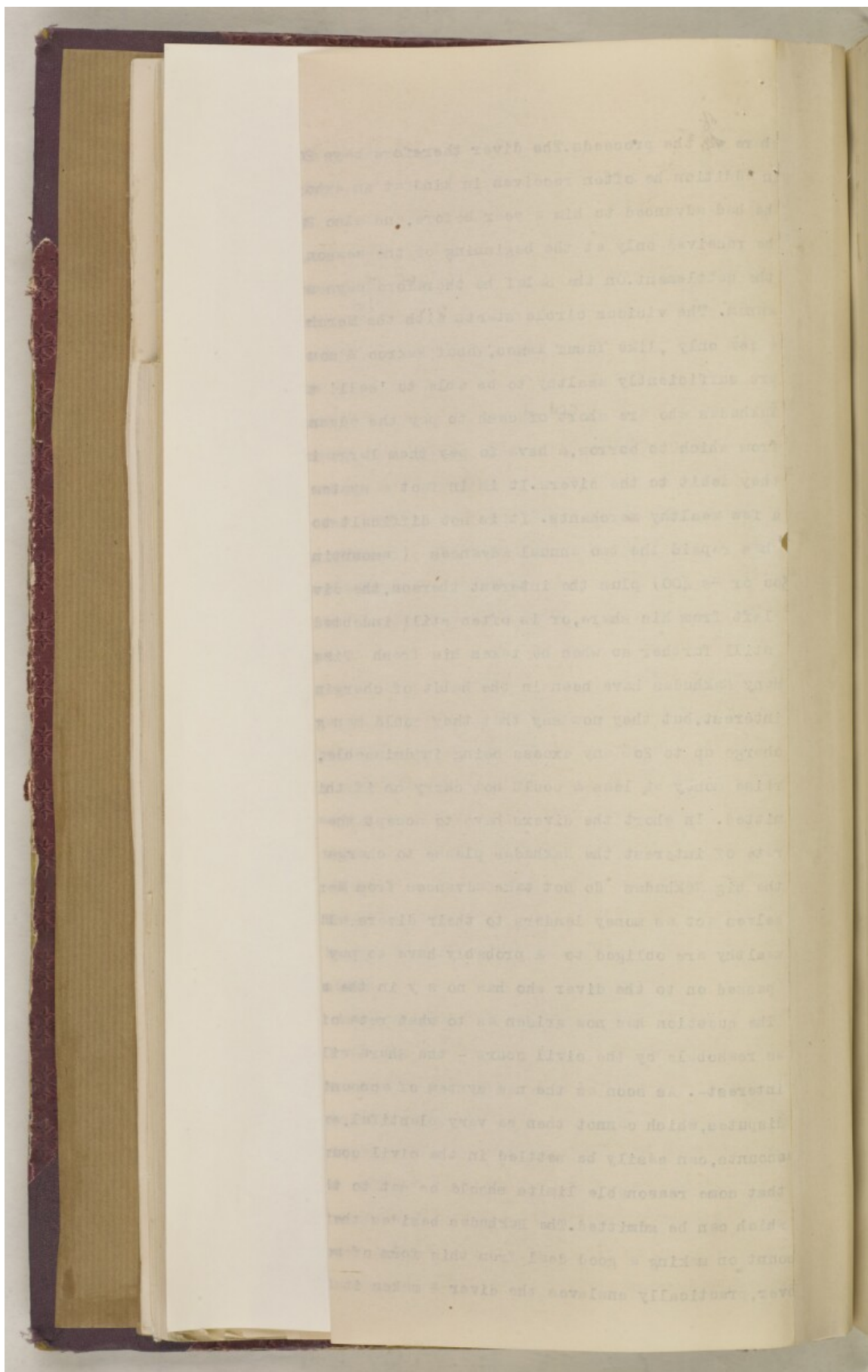


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(25)

share ^{of} the proceeds. The diver therefore pays 20% on his Tisqam (which in addition he often receives in kind at an exorbitant price-) which he had advanced to him a year before, and also 20% on his salaf which he received only at the beginning of the season, say five months before the settlement. On the Salaf he therefore pays something ^{big} 40% per annum. The vicious circle starts with the Merchants, of whom there are a few only, like Yusuf Kanoo, Yusuf Fakroo & some half dozen others, who are sufficiently wealthy to be able to 'sell' the grain on credit. Nakhudas who are short of cash to pay the advances, have no other source from which to borrow, & have to pay them large interest, which in turn they debit to the divers. It is in fact a system of money lending by a few wealthy merchants. It is not difficult to see that by the time he has repaid the two annual advances (amounting generally to about Rs 300 or Rs 400) plus the interest thereon, the diver seldom has anything left from his share, or is often still indebted to the Nakhuda & becomes still further so when he takes his fresh 'Tisqam'.

Many Nakhudas have been in the habit of charging much more than 20% interest, but they now say that they could manage if they were allowed to charge up to 20% any excess being inadmissible, but that many could not raise money at less & could not carry on if this interest be not permitted. In short the divers have to accept the advances at any fancy rate of interest the Nakhudas please to charge them. In all probability the big Nakhudas do not take advances from Merchants at all, but themselves act as money lenders to their divers, although some of the less wealthy are obliged to & probably have to pay heavy interest, which is passed on to the diver who has no say in the matter.

The question has now arisen as to what rate of interest can be admitted as reasonable by the civil court - the Shara will of course admit no interest-. As soon as the new system of accounts comes into force disputes, which cannot then be very plentiful, except as regards old accounts, can easily be settled in the civil courts, but it is necessary that some reasonable limits should be set to the amount of interest which can be admitted. The Nakhudas besides their share of the pearls count on making a good deal from this form of money lending, which moreover, practically enslaves the diver & makes it impossible for him to



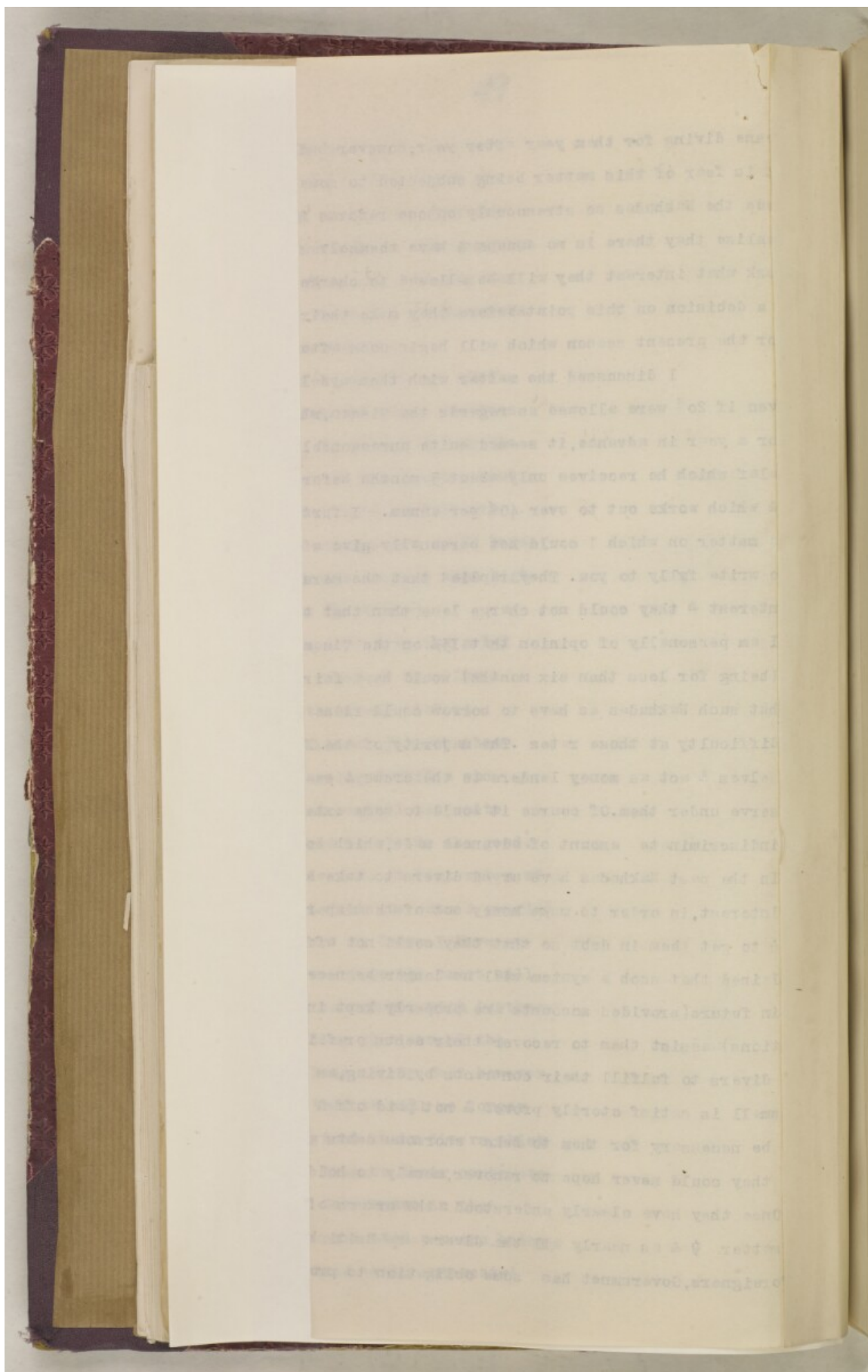


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cease diving for them year after year, however badly he may be treated. It is fear of this matter being subjected to some regulation which has made the Nakhudas so strenuously oppose reforms in accounting. They now realise they there is no escape & have themselves brought up the question & ask what interest they will be allowed to charge. They are pressing for a decision on this point before they make their financial arrangements for the present season which will begin soon after Ramadhan.

I discussed the matter with them myself & pointed out that even if 20% were allowed as regards the Tisqam, which the diver receives for a year in advance, it seemed quite unreasonable to charge 20% on the Salaf which he receives only about 5 months before the final settlement & which works out to over 40% per annum. I further said that it was a matter on which I could not personally give a decision but would have to write fully to you. They replied that the merchants charged them high interest & they could not charge less than that to the divers.

I am personally of opinion that 15% on the Tisqam & 7½ % on the salaf (being for less than six months) would be a fair interest to allow & that such Nakhudas as have to borrow could raise the money without difficulty at those rates. The majority of the Nakhudas finance themselves & act as money lenders to the crews & sea-going Nakhudas who serve under them. Of course it would to some extent curtail the quite indiscriminate amount of advances made, which would be all to the good. In the past Nakhudas have urged divers to take advances at high rates of interest, in order to make money out of them (apart from the actual pearls) & to get them in debt so that they could not afford to leave. I have explained that such a system will no longer be necessary as the court will in future (provided accounts are properly kept in accordance with instructions) assist them to recover their debts or failing that, compel the divers to fulfill their contracts by diving, as long as any debt, however small is satisfactorily proved & not paid off & that it will no longer be necessary for them to fake enormous debts against their divers, which they could never hope to recover, merely to hold them to their contracts. Once they have clearly understood the orders of Government in the matter & as nearly all the divers are British protected persons, being Foreigners, Government has some obligation to protect their interests)



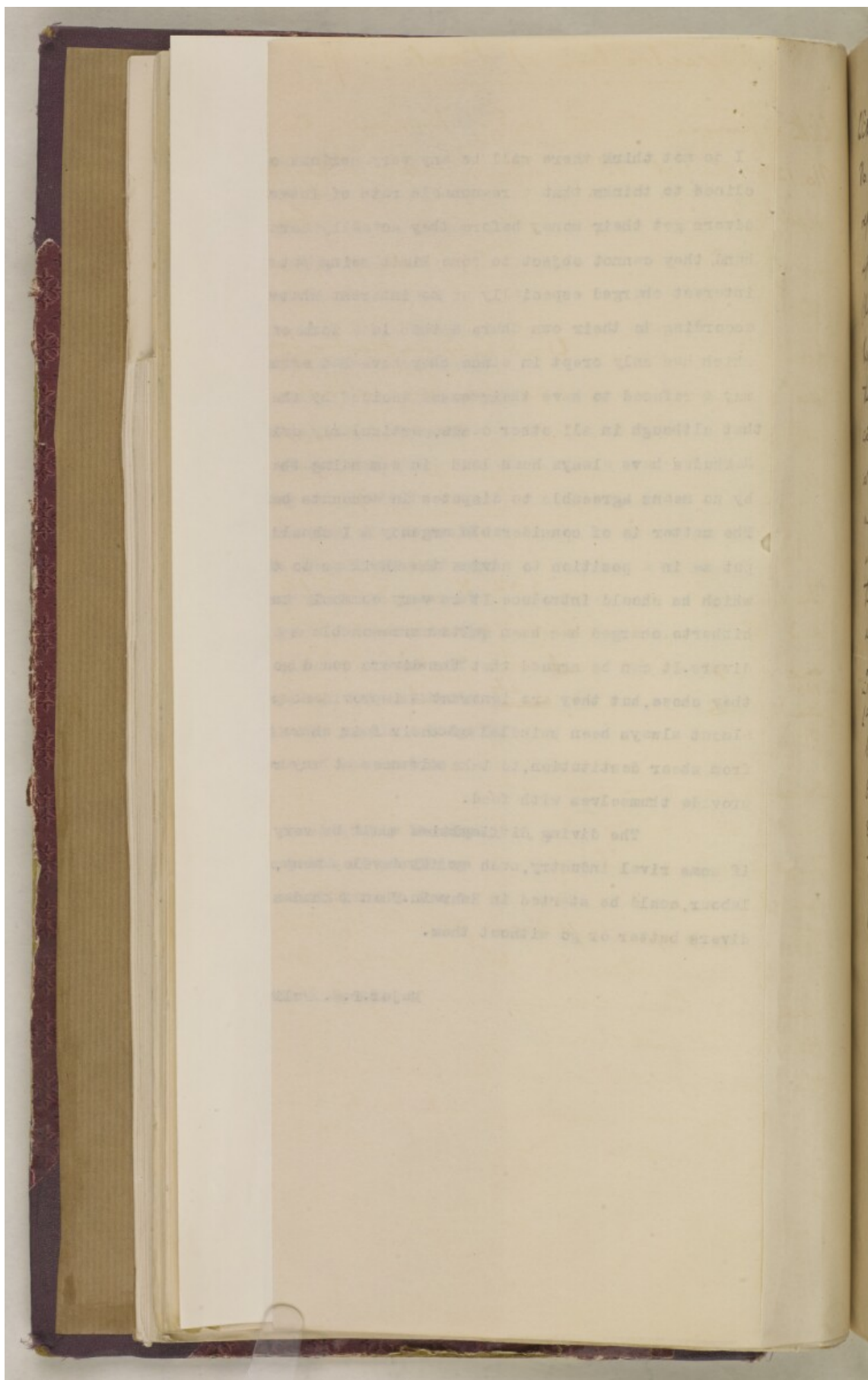


50
(26)

I do not think there will be any very serious opposition. I am inclined to think that a reasonable rate of interest is fair, since the divers get their money before they actually earn it, but on the other hand they cannot object to some limit being put to the amount of interest charged especially as no interest whatever is permissible according to their own Shara & this is a form of making extra money which has only crept in since they have had matters entirely their own way & refused to have their cases decided by the Shara. It is noteworthy that although in all other cases, particularly criminal cases, the same Makhadas have always been loud in demanding the Shara, they are by no means agreeable to disputes in accounts being so settled! The matter is of considerable urgency & I should be glad if you would put me in a position to advise the Shaik as to the regulations, if any, which he should introduce. It is very commonly known that the interest hitherto charged has been quite unreasonable & a great hardship to the divers. It can be argued that the divers could go without advances if they chose, but they are ignorant & improvident people, & have hitherto almost always been swindled of their fair share in the pearls & compelled from sheer destitution, to take advances at any rate of interest, to provide themselves with food.

The diving difficulties would be very considerably lessened, if some rival industry, such as oil development, capable of providing labour, could be started in Bahrain. Then Makhadas would have to treat divers better or go without them.

Major. I. A. Political Agent.





Registration of Boats. 9/5/24

With reference to the for^t of Bahrain's Order
No. 127 dated 1st Shaban 1342 I beg to
report that I have registered 502 boats
up to & including Thurs. 20th March 1924
(Shaban 15th 1342) as per Details given in the
Register of Shipping. About half are pearling boats.
The sum of Rs. 2,505 has been collected and
credited to the Bahrain for^t. Consolidated Fund
at the Taskeen Bank. through the daily remittances
made by the Director of Customs (vide receipt
attached).

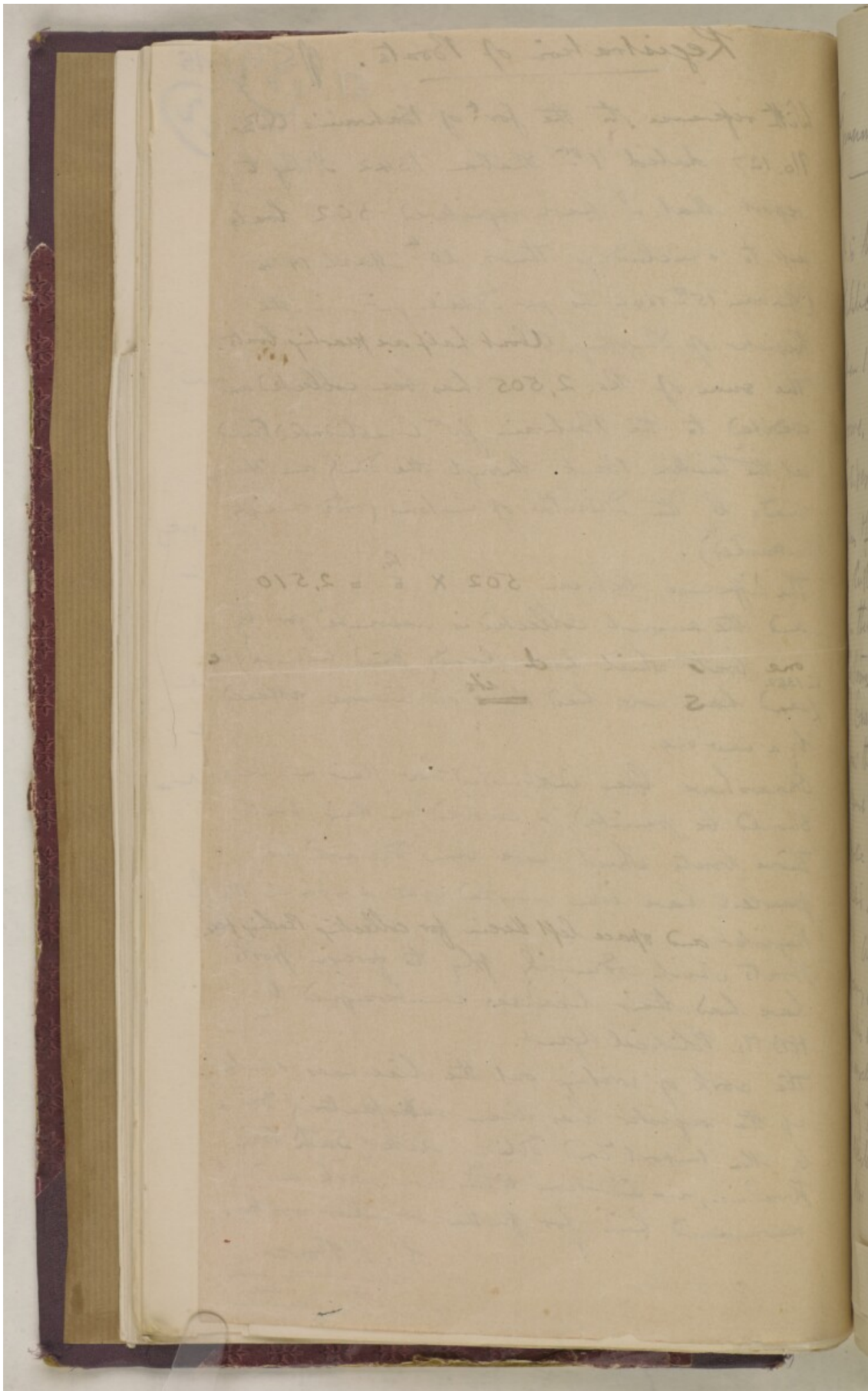
The difference between $502 \times \text{Rs. } 5 = 2,510$
and the amount collected is accounted for by
one boat which had already paid his fee
in 1342 and has now had ~~the~~ its old license replaced
by a new one.

Owners have been instructed how their numbers
should be painted & carved on their boats.
Those boats which have been declared as
pearlers have been marked with a cross in the
Register and space left therein for collecting Pearling fees.
Boats which ordinarily ply to foreign ports
have had their licenses countersigned by
H.B.M. Political Agent.

The work of writing out the licenses & entering
up the register has been satisfactorily done
by the Import and Export clerk, Sade Bin
Abraham, in addition to his own work and I
recommend him for further similar work.

C. N. Bower.

21.3.24.





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Notice
From
Government of Bahrain

(20)

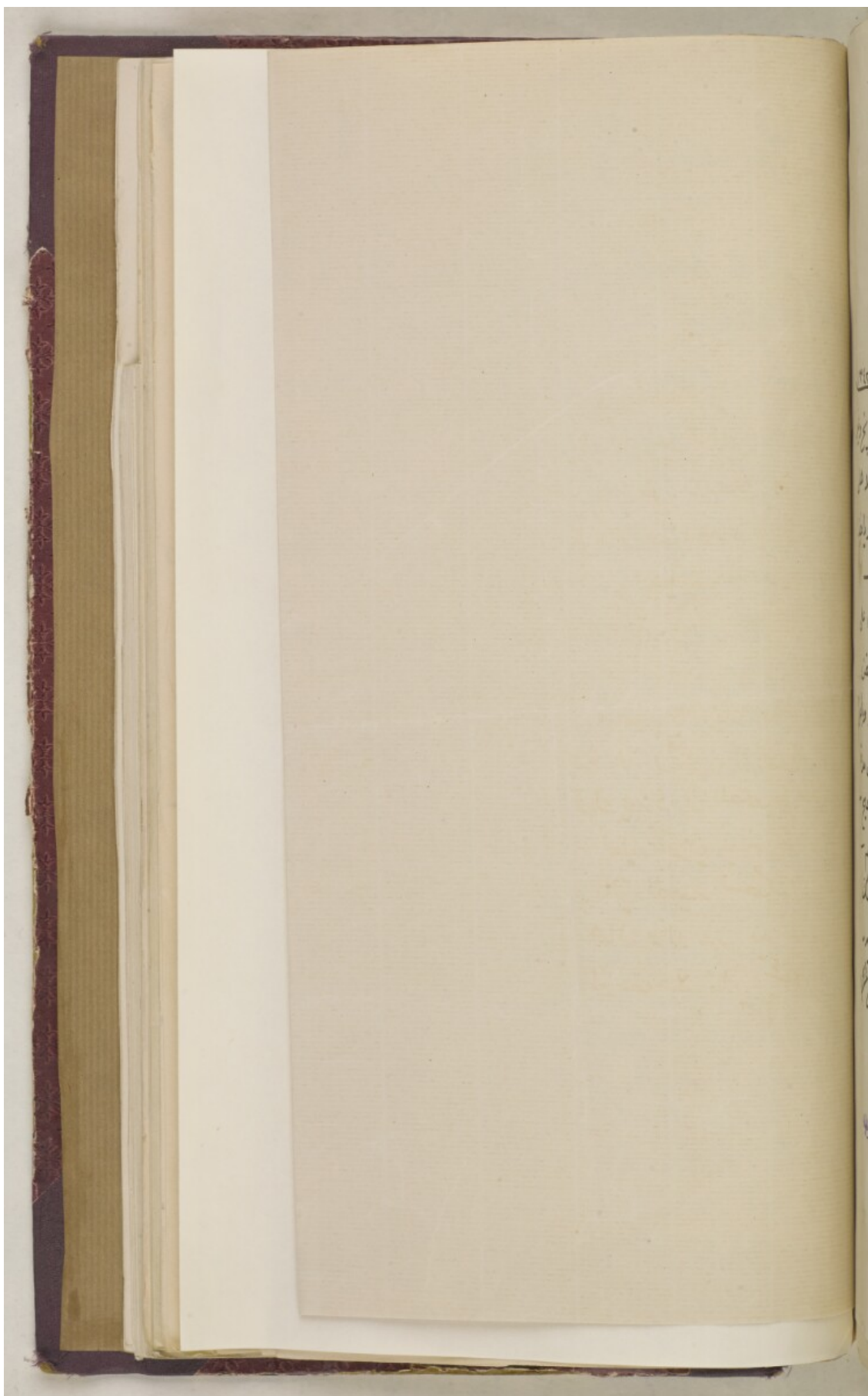
No. 127
1342

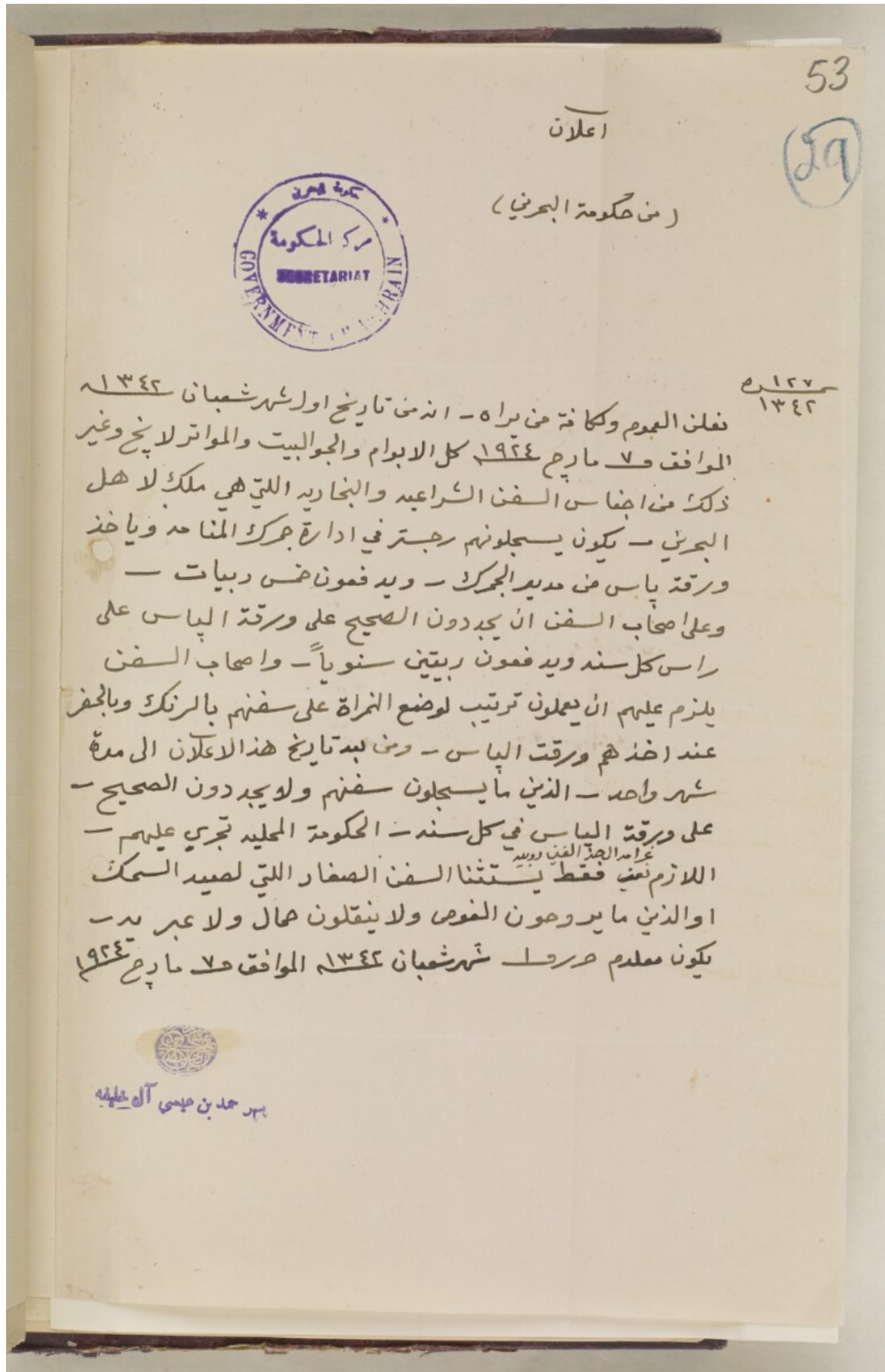
It is hereby notified for the information
the Public that with effect from
1st Shaban 1342 corresponding to 7th March 1924
all Boats, Jolly boats, Motor Launches,
Motor Vessels etc belonging to the
Citizens of Bahrain should be registered
in the Customs House Manual, &
obtain thereof a license from the Director
of Customs on payment of Rs 5/-

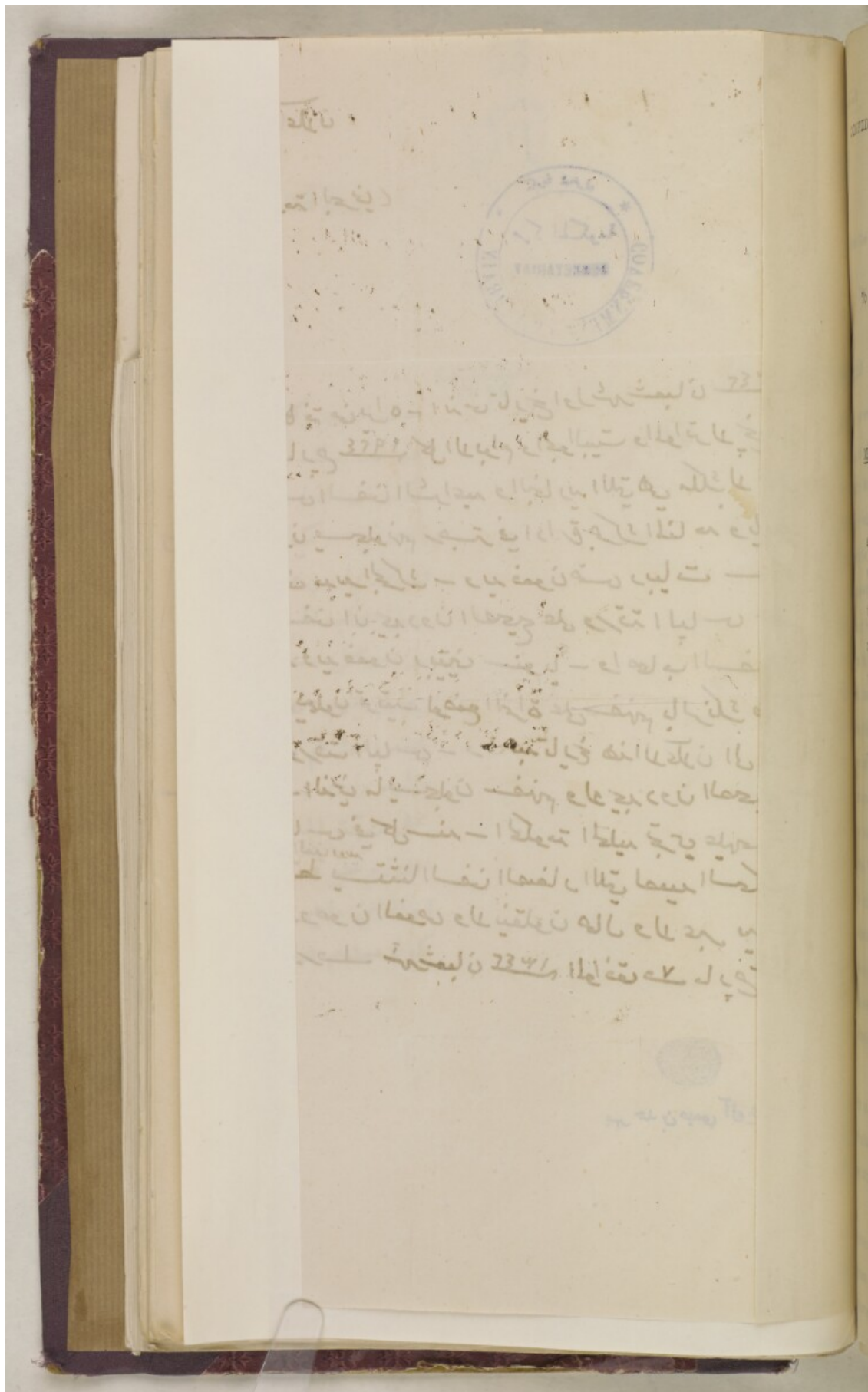
Owners of vessels are requested to
renew their license every year on the
payment of Rs 5/- & they are requested further
to make arrangements to get their vessels
checked & covered when applying for license.

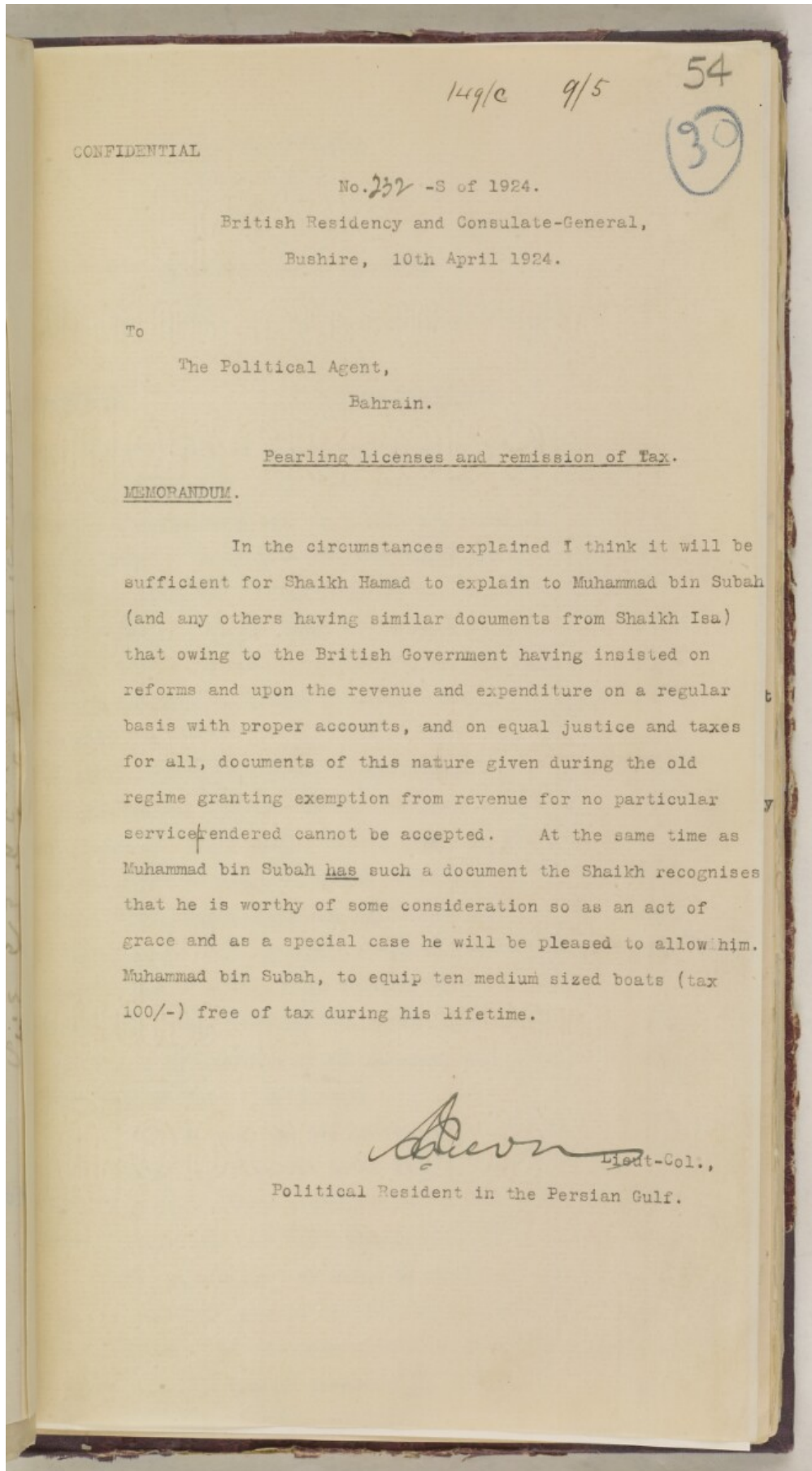
Any one who fails to register his boat
if his boat registered or renewed will be
himself liable to a penalty of Rs 200/-
only. These boats will be exempted which
Neither take any part in pearl fishing
Nor load any cargo or passengers.

Dated the 18th Shaban
Corresponding 7th March 1924
Signed
[Signature]









CONFIDENTIAL

No. 232 -S of 1924.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 10th April 1924.

To
The Political Agent,
Bahrain.

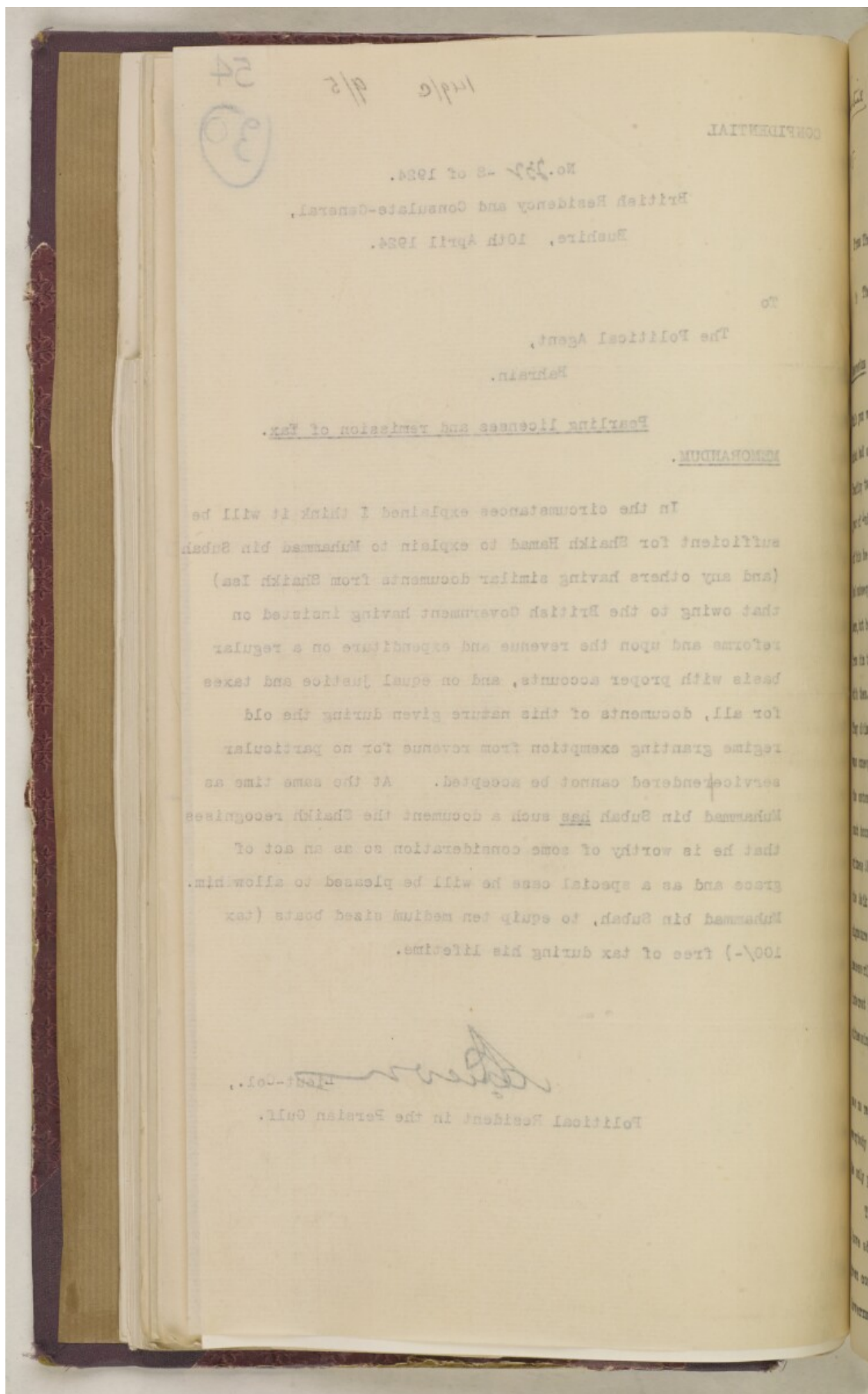
Pearling licenses and remission of Tax.

MEMORANDUM.

In the circumstances explained I think it will be sufficient for Shaikh Hamad to explain to Muhammad bin Subah (and any others having similar documents from Shaikh Isa) that owing to the British Government having insisted on reforms and upon the revenue and expenditure on a regular basis with proper accounts, and on equal justice and taxes for all, documents of this nature given during the old regime granting exemption from revenue for no particular service rendered cannot be accepted. At the same time as Muhammad bin Subah has such a document the Shaikh recognises that he is worthy of some consideration so as an act of grace and as a special case he will be pleased to allow him. Muhammad bin Subah, to equip ten medium sized boats (tax 100/-) free of tax during his lifetime.

[Signature]
Lieut-Col.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





55

initial
9/5.

The Agency, Bahrain.
Persian Gulf.
14/24

(31)

From The Political Agent, Bahrain.

To The Hon'ble the Political Resident, Bushire.

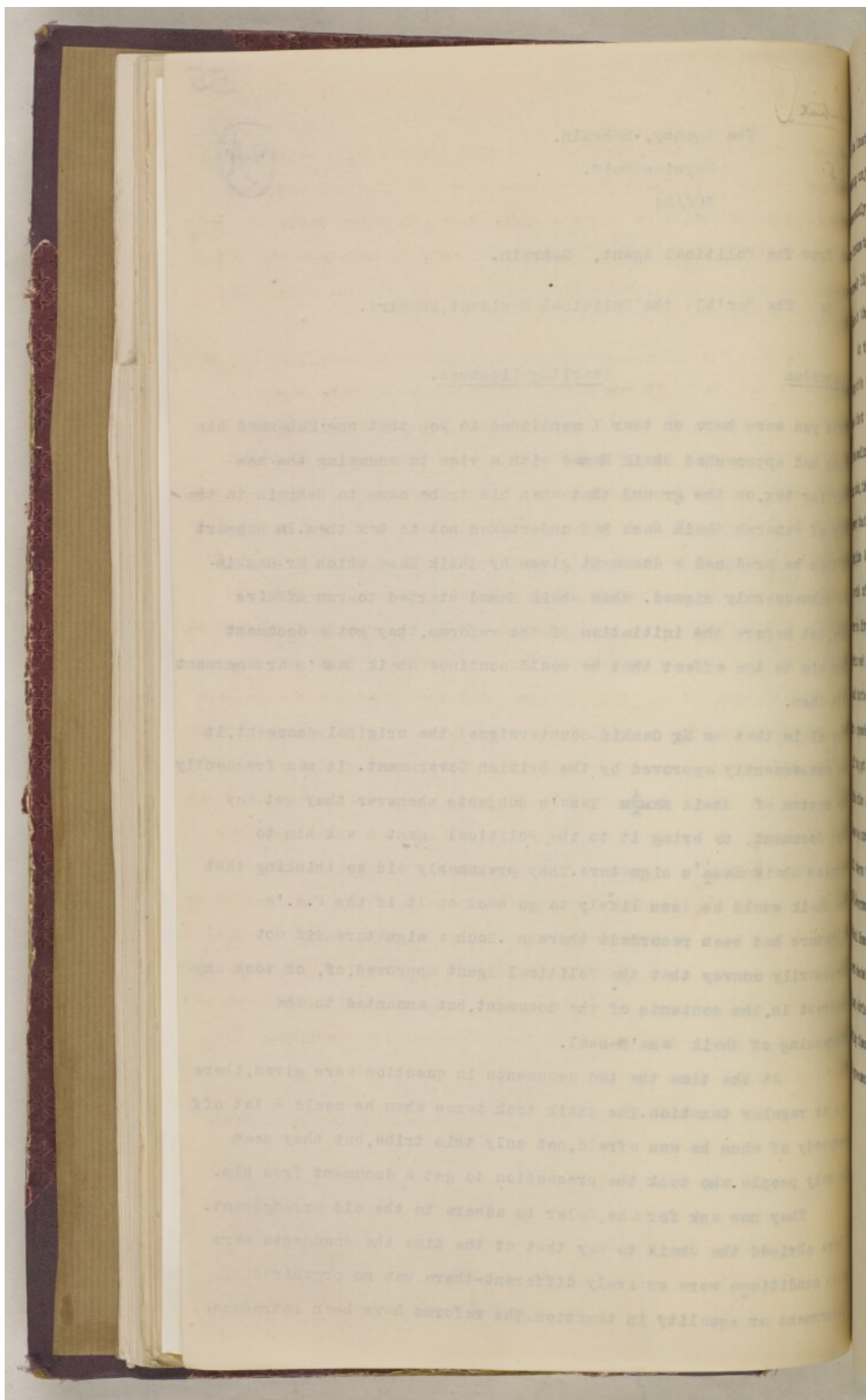
Memorandum Pearling Licenses.

While you were here on tour I mentioned to you that one Muhammad bin Ubah had approached Shaik Hamad with a view to escaping the new pearling tax, on the ground that when his tribe came to Bahrain in the rear of Ubareh Shaik Easa had undertaken not to tax them. In support of this he produced a document given by Shaik Easa which Mr Gaskin had subsequently signed. When Shaik Hamad started to run affairs here, but before the initiation of the reforms, they got a document from him to the effect that he would continue Shaik Easa's arrangement with them.

They claim that as Mr Gaskin countersigned the original document, it was consequently approved by the British Government. It was frequently the custom of Shaik ~~xxxx~~ Easa's subjects whenever they got any such document, to bring it to the Political Agent & ask him to witness Shaik Easa's signature. They presumably did so thinking that the Shaik would be less likely to go back on it if the P.A.'s signature had been recorded thereon. Such a signature did not necessarily convey that the Political Agent approved, of, or took any interest in, the contents of the document, but amounted to the witnessing of Shaik Easa's seal.

At the time the two documents in question were given, there was no regular taxation. The Shaik took taxes when he could & let off everybody of whom he was afraid, not only this tribe, but they seem the only people who took the precaution to get a document from him.

They now ask for the Ruler to adhere to the old arrangement. I have advised the Shaik to say that at the time the documents were given conditions were entirely different - there was no organised Government or equality in taxation. The reforms have been introduced

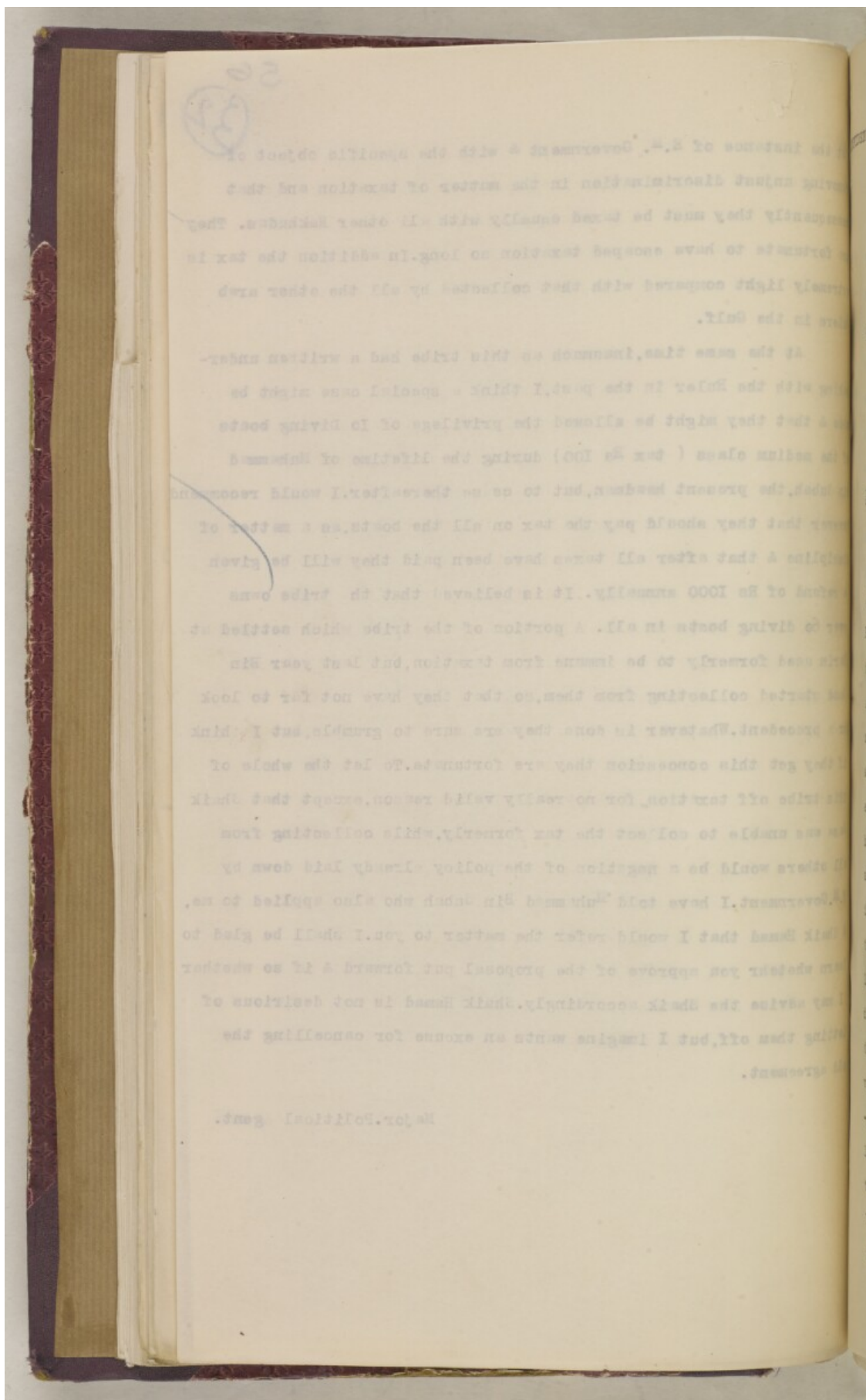


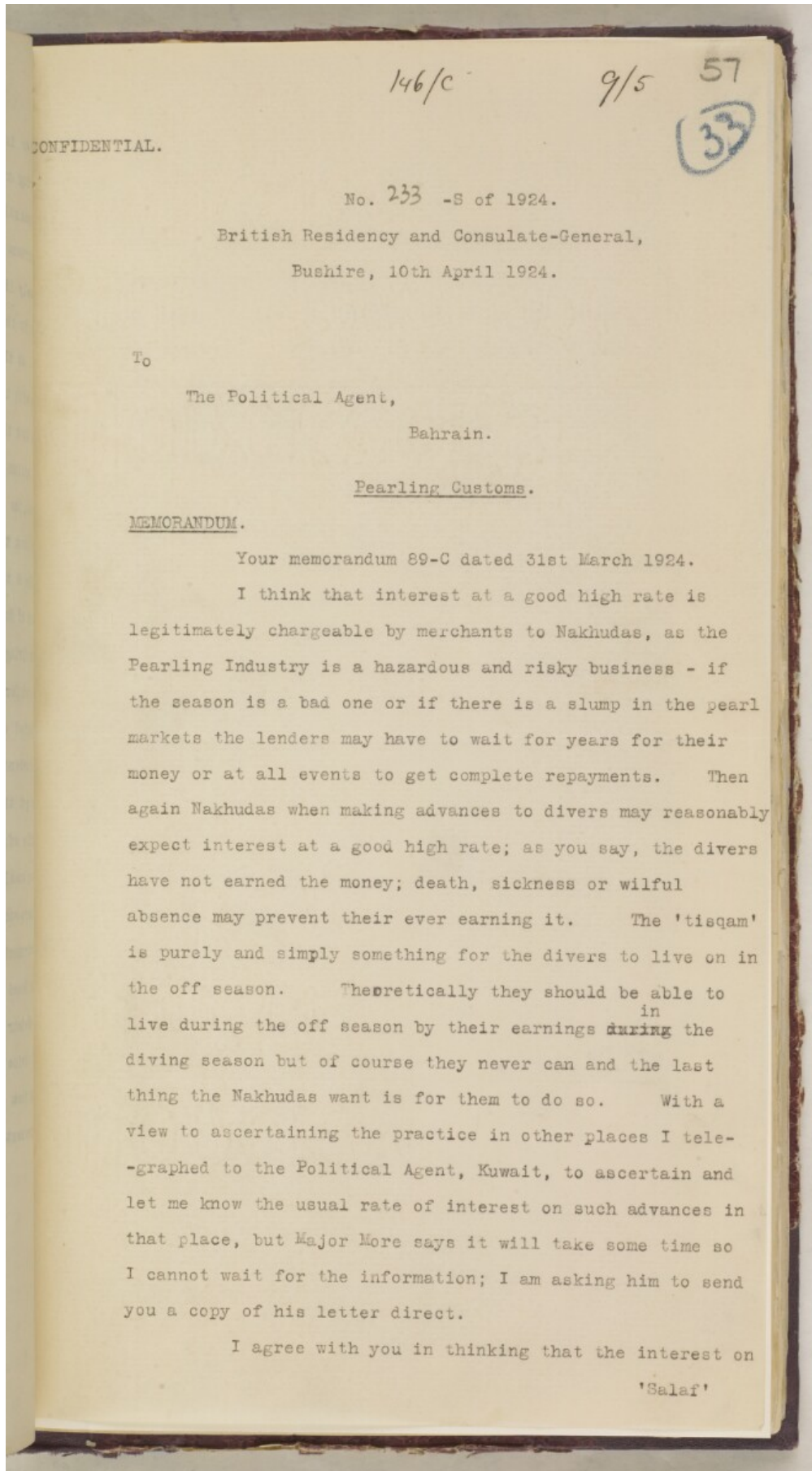


56
(32)
at the instance of H.M. Government & with the specific object of removing unjust discrimination in the matter of taxation and that consequently they must be taxed equally with all other Nakhudas. They are fortunate to have escaped taxation so long. In addition the tax is extremely light compared with that collected by all the other Arab rulers in the Gulf.

At the same time, inasmuch as this tribe had a written undertaking with the Ruler in the past, I think a special case might be made & that they might be allowed the privilege of 10 Diving boats of the medium class (tax Rs 100) during the lifetime of Muhammad bin Subah, the present headman, but to cease thereafter. I would recommend however that they should pay the tax on all the boats, as a matter of discipline & that after all taxes have been paid they will be given a refund of Rs 1000 annually. It is believed that the tribe owns over 60 diving boats in all. A portion of the tribe which settled at Darin used formerly to be immune from taxation, but last year Bin Saud started collecting from them, so that they have not far to look for a precedent. Whatever is done they are sure to grumble, but I think if they get this concession they are fortunate. To let the whole of this tribe off taxation, for no really valid reason, except that Shaik Saad was unable to collect the tax formerly, while collecting from all others would be a negation of the policy already laid down by H.M. Government. I have told Muhammad bin Subah who also applied to me, & Shaik Hamad that I would refer the matter to you. I shall be glad to learn whether you approve of the proposal put forward & if so whether I may advise the Shaik accordingly. Shaik Hamad is not desirous of letting them off, but I imagine wants an excuse for cancelling the old agreement.

Major. Political Agent.





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 233 -S of 1924.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th April 1924.

To

The Political Agent,

Bahrain.

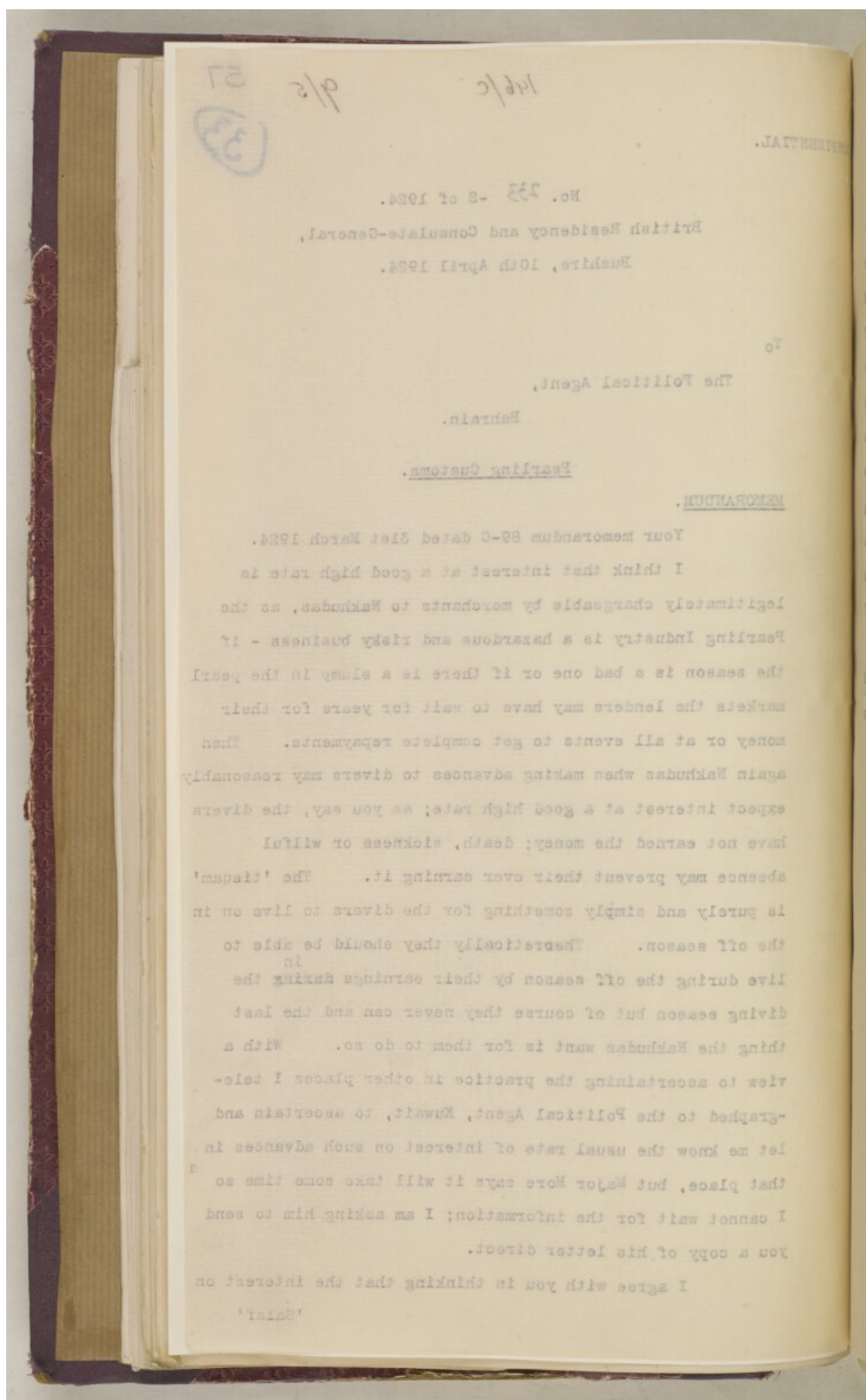
Pearling Customs.

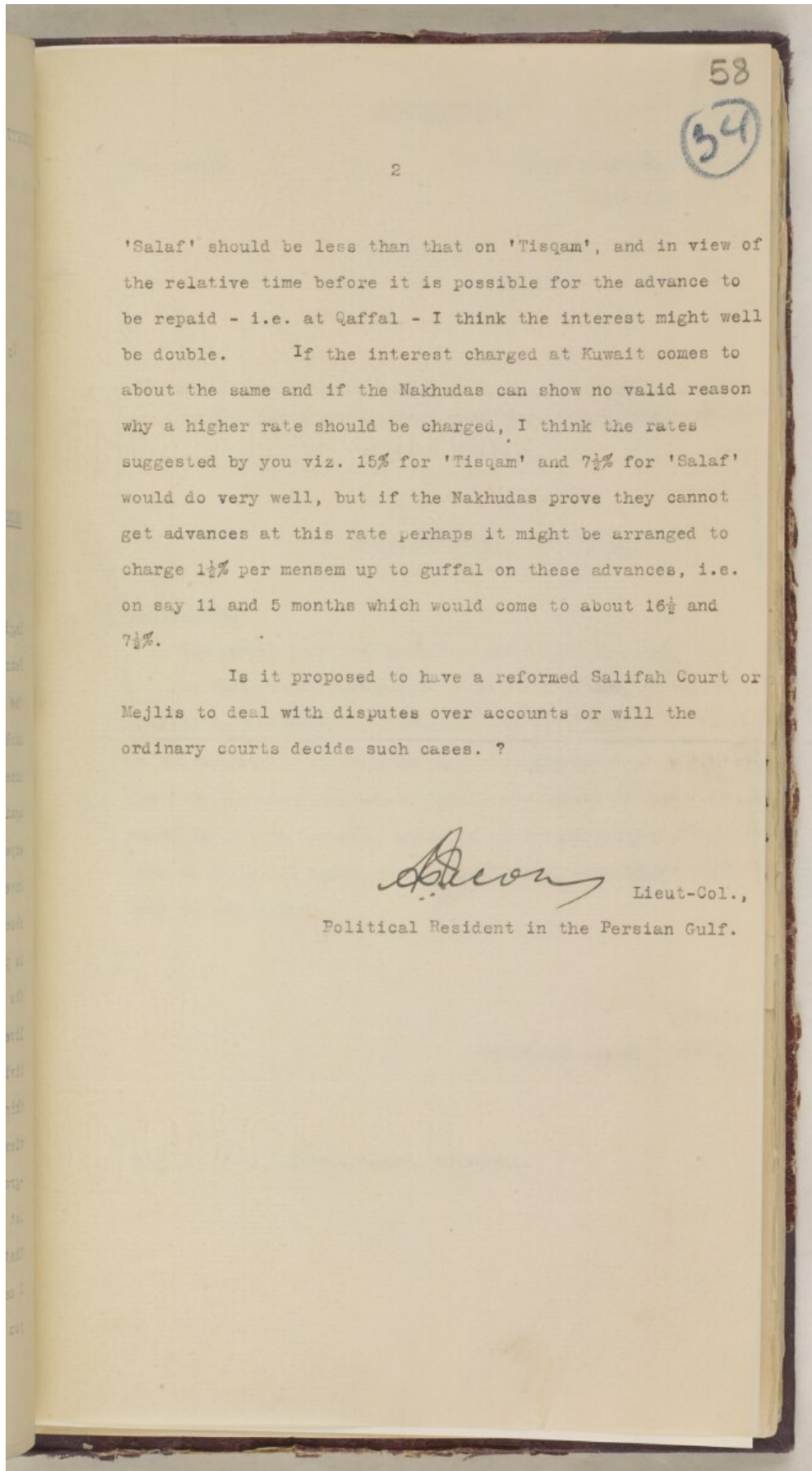
MEMORANDUM.

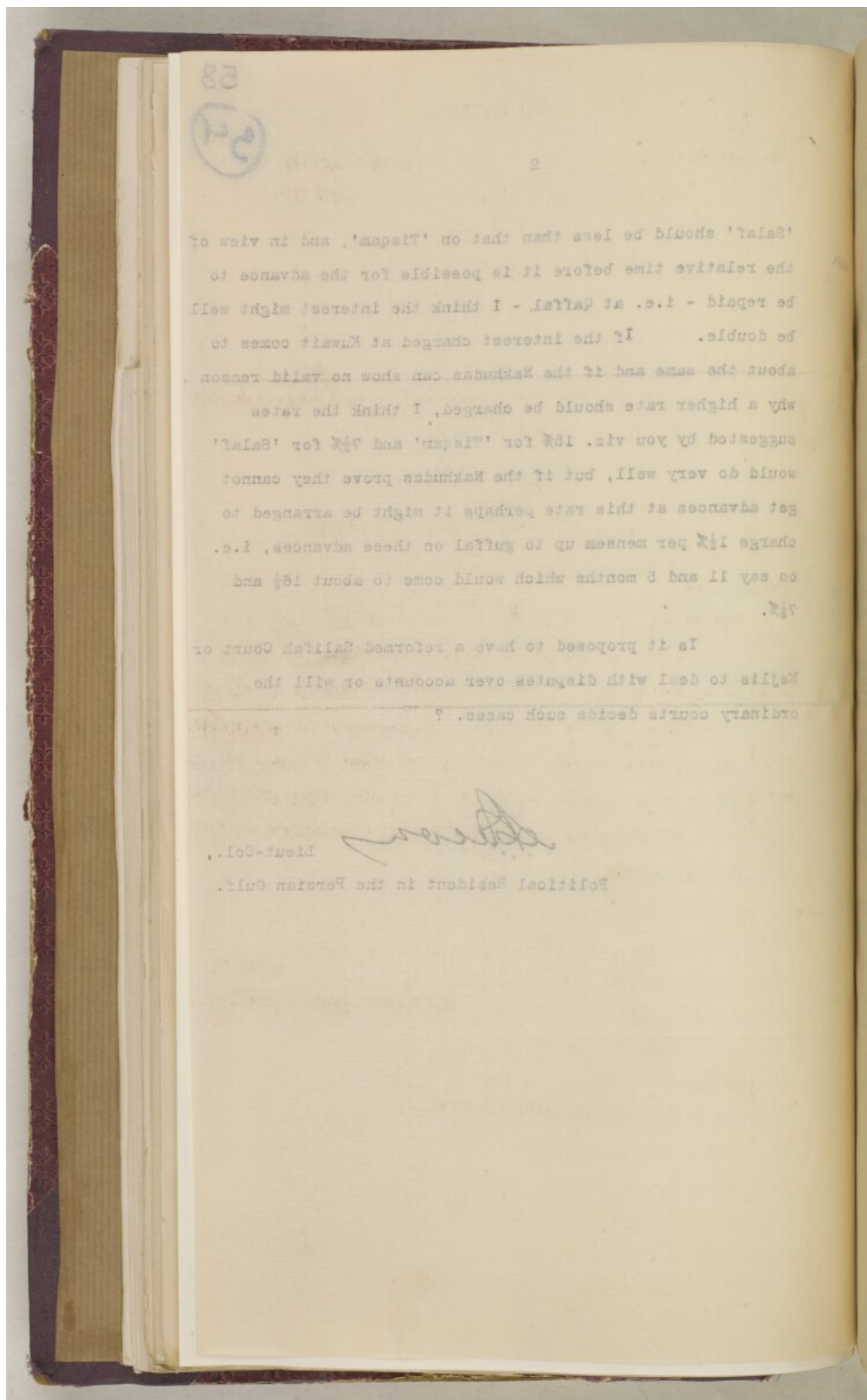
Your memorandum 89-C dated 31st March 1924.

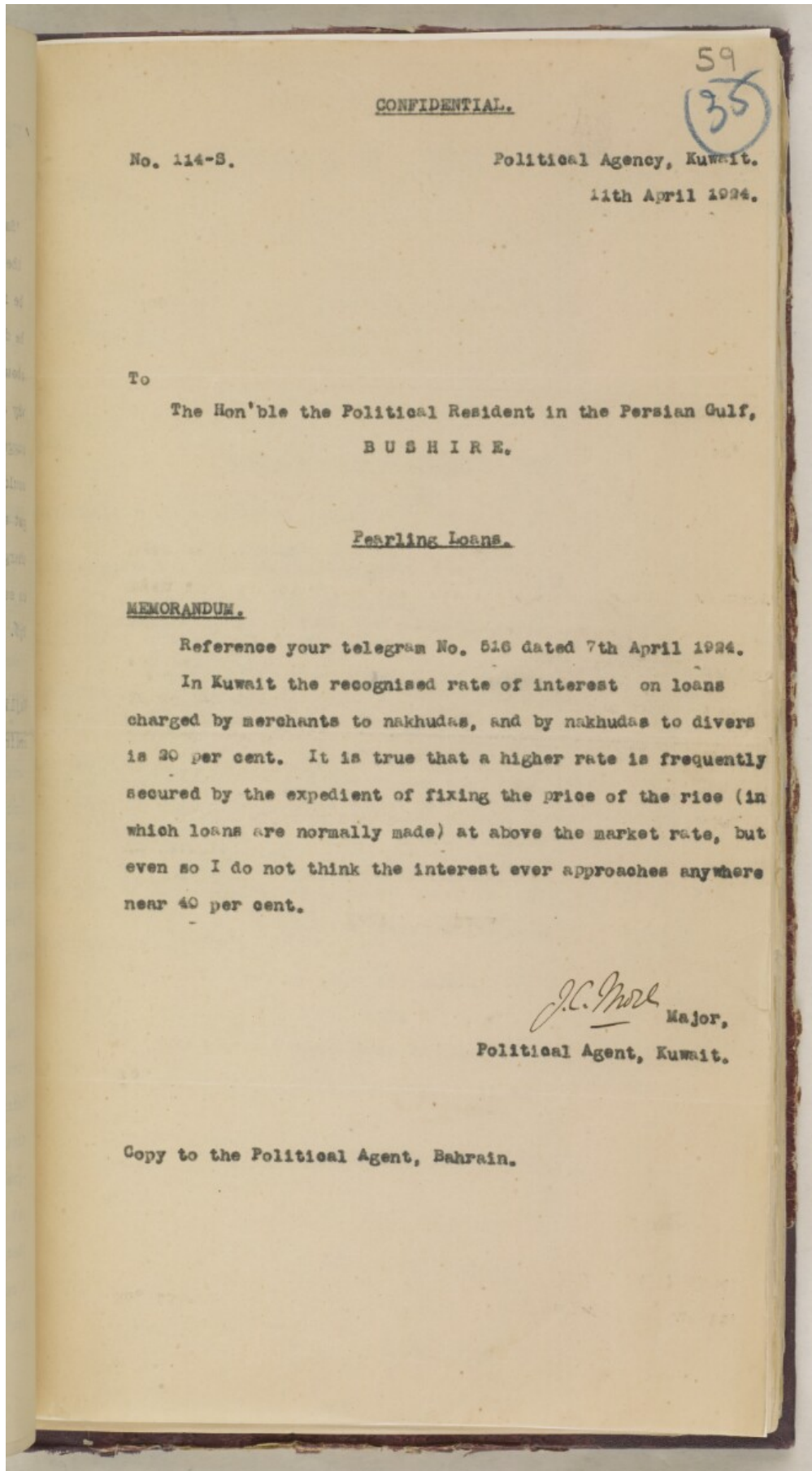
I think that interest at a good high rate is legitimately chargeable by merchants to Nakhudas, as the Pearling Industry is a hazardous and risky business - if the season is a bad one or if there is a slump in the pearl markets the lenders may have to wait for years for their money or at all events to get complete repayments. Then again Nakhudas when making advances to divers may reasonably expect interest at a good high rate; as you say, the divers have not earned the money; death, sickness or wilful absence may prevent their ever earning it. The 'tisqam' is purely and simply something for the divers to live on in the off season. Theoretically they should be able to live during the off season by their earnings ⁱⁿ during the diving season but of course they never can and the last thing the Nakhudas want is for them to do so. With a view to ascertaining the practice in other places I telegraphed to the Political Agent, Kuwait, to ascertain and let me know the usual rate of interest on such advances in that place, but Major More says it will take some time so I cannot wait for the information; I am asking him to send you a copy of his letter direct.

I agree with you in thinking that the interest on
'Salaf'









CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 114-S.

Political Agency, Kuwait.

11th April 1924.

To

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
B U S H I R E.

Pearling Loans.

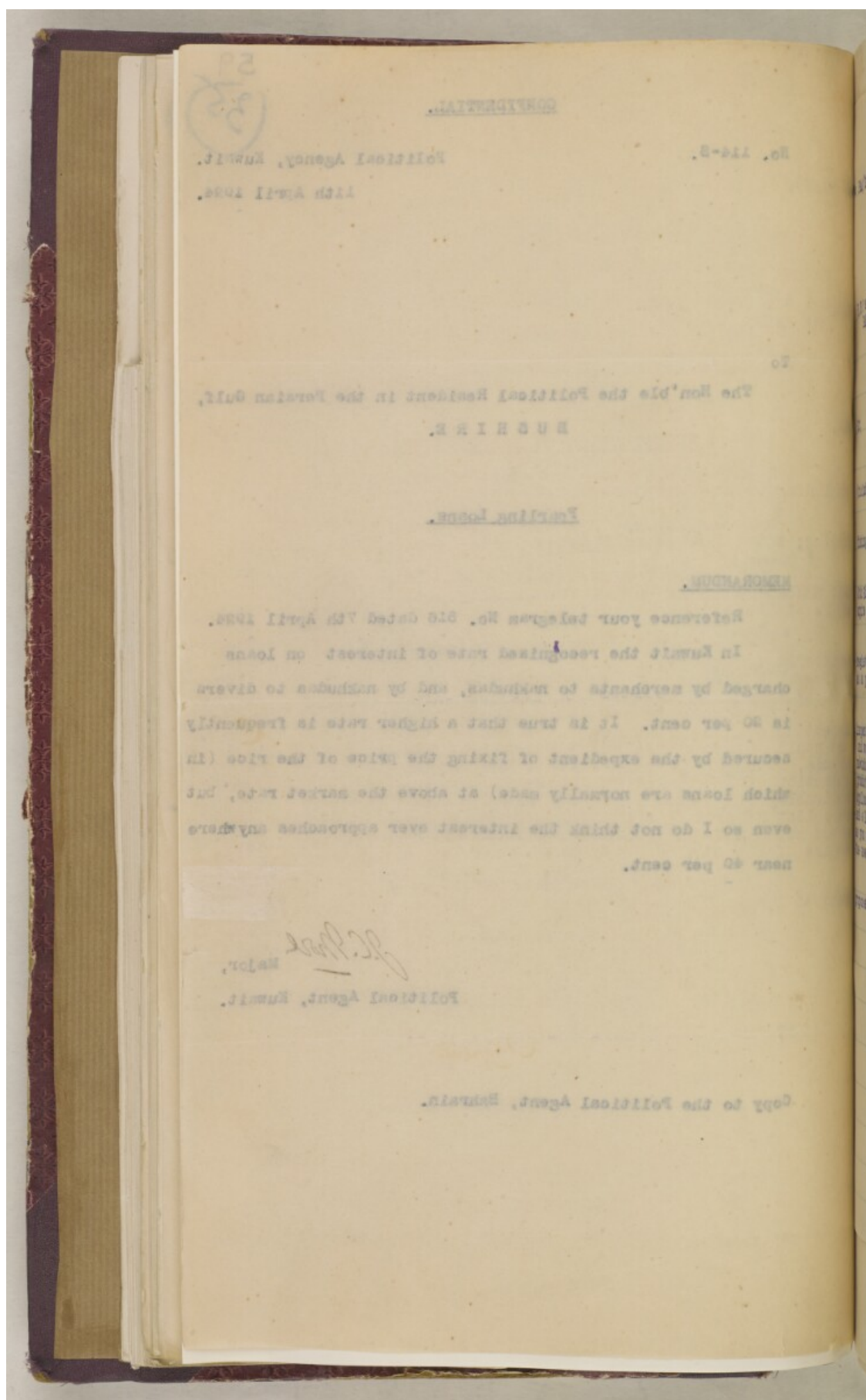
MEMORANDUM.

Reference your telegram No. 516 dated 7th April 1924.

In Kuwait the recognised rate of interest on loans charged by merchants to nakhudas, and by nakhudas to divers is 30 per cent. It is true that a higher rate is frequently secured by the expedient of fixing the price of the rice (in which loans are normally made) at above the market rate, but even so I do not think the interest ever approaches anywhere near 40 per cent.

J.C. Moore Major,
Political Agent, Kuwait.

Copy to the Political Agent, Bahrain.





Custom House.

O. PA/19.

BAHREIN.

Date, 20th April, 1924. 192

H.B.M's Political Agent,
BAHREIN.

Sir,

REGISTRATION OF SHIPPING CRAFT.

I have the honour to report that the number of boats (including motor-boats) registered at this port is 1,286, to date

Of this number, 579 boats are to be used for pearl-fishing; and eight pearl licenses have been issued to date.

The period for registration of boats expired on 30th Shaban; and the period for issuing pearl licences will expire at the end of Ramadhthan.

The Registration fee was Rs5/-; but on all boats registered in future, I propose to charge, with your approval, as a penalty the sum of ten rupees.

I propose to ask your authority for a system of inspection of boat licenses to be commenced from the 1st Shawal, and would suggest that such inspection be carried out by a nakhuda, assisted by a policeman, who should require the production of the Registration Certificate, and also (when applicable) the Pearl Licence. A daily Report might be made, and a list of defaulters submitted to Yourself for such action as you may consider desirable. If necessary I would suggest the use of one of the Government boats now lying in the port.

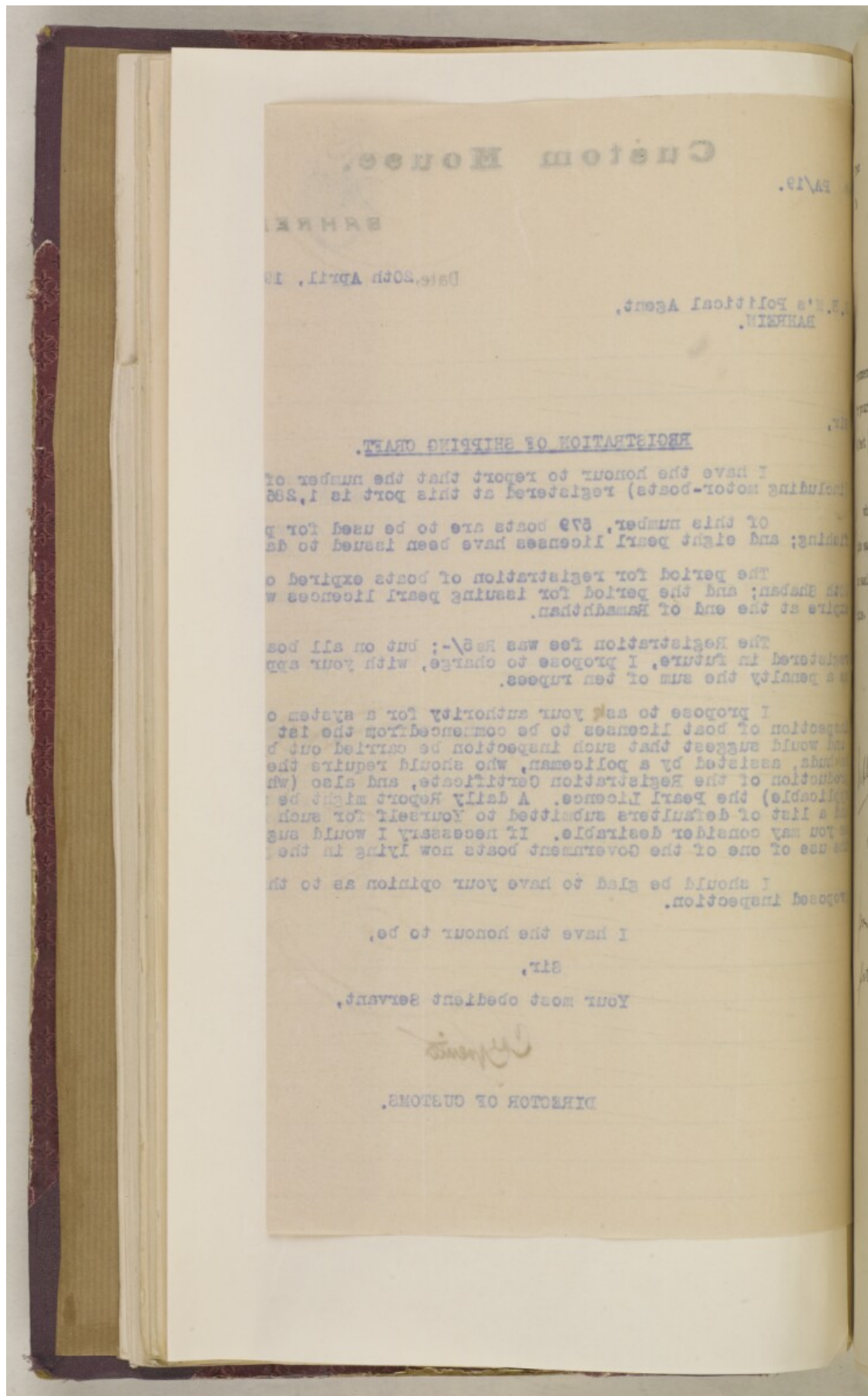
I should be glad to have your opinion as to this proposed inspection.

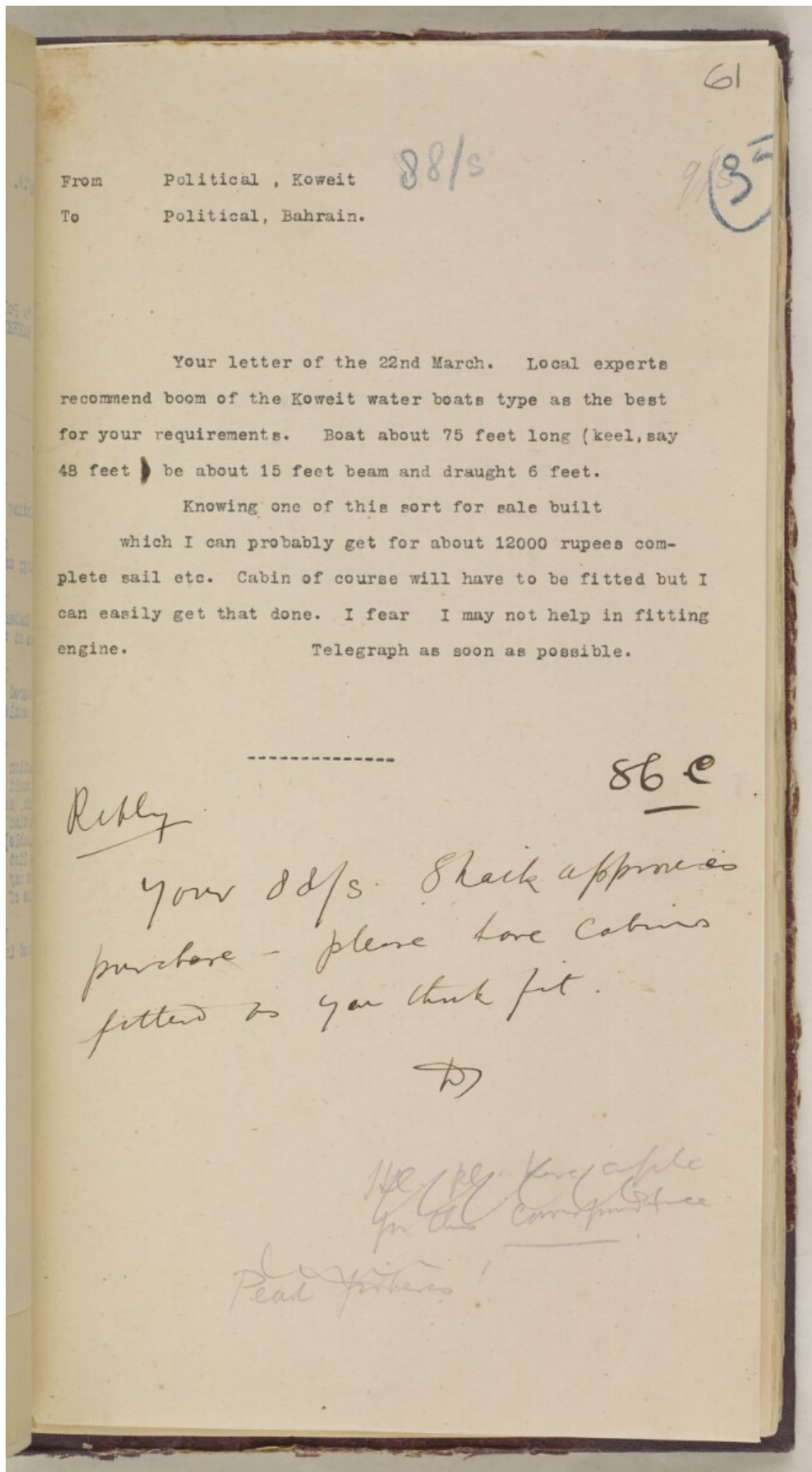
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS.





From Political, Koweit
To Political, Bahrain.

88/s

9/35

61

Your letter of the 22nd March. Local experts recommend boom of the Koweit water boats type as the best for your requirements. Boat about 75 feet long (keel, say 48 feet) be about 15 feet beam and draught 6 feet.

Knowing one of this sort for sale built which I can probably get for about 12000 rupees complete sail etc. Cabin of course will have to be fitted but I can easily get that done. I fear I may not help in fitting engine.
Telegraph as soon as possible.

86 e

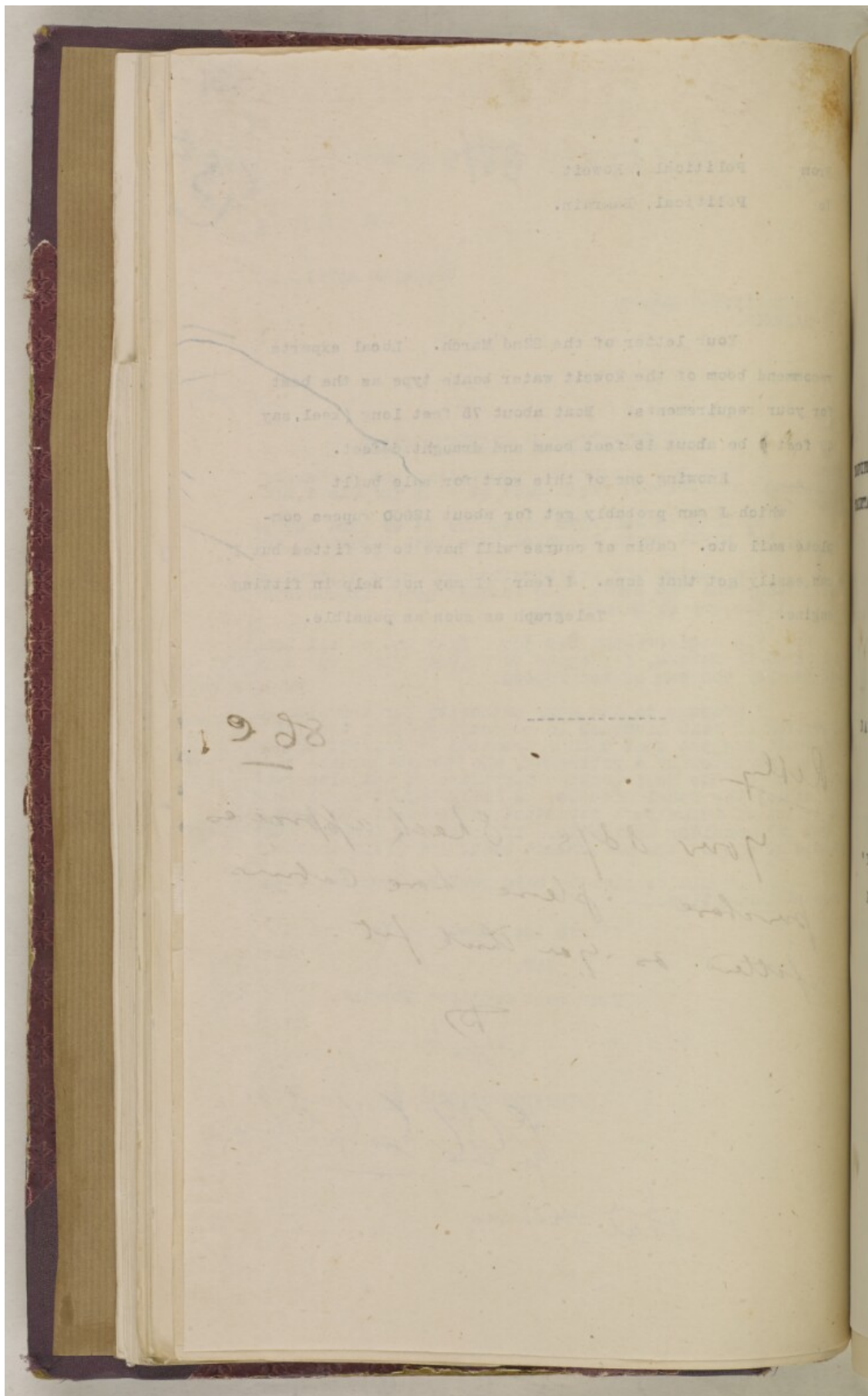
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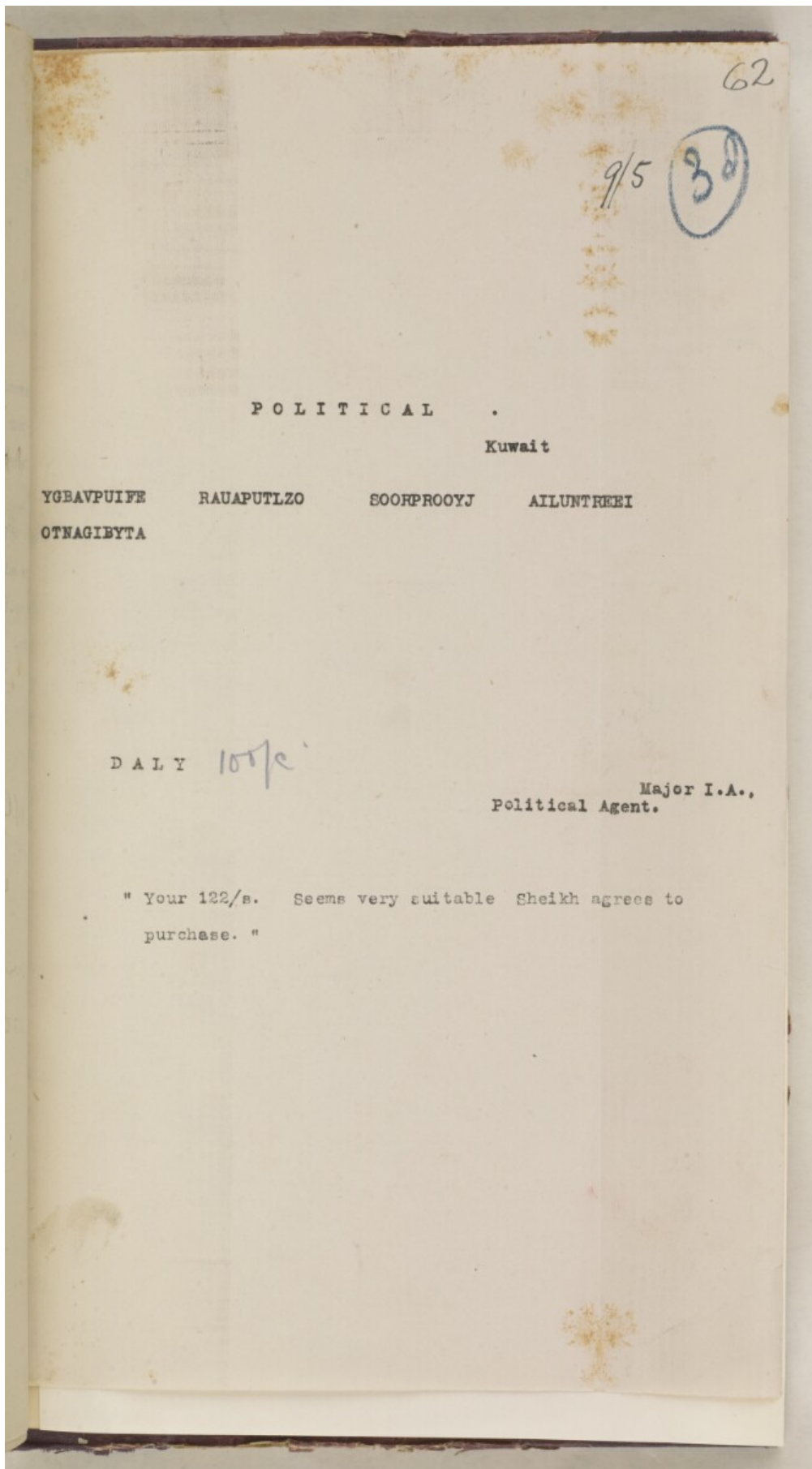
Your sd/s. Shall approve purchase - please have cabins fitted as you think fit.

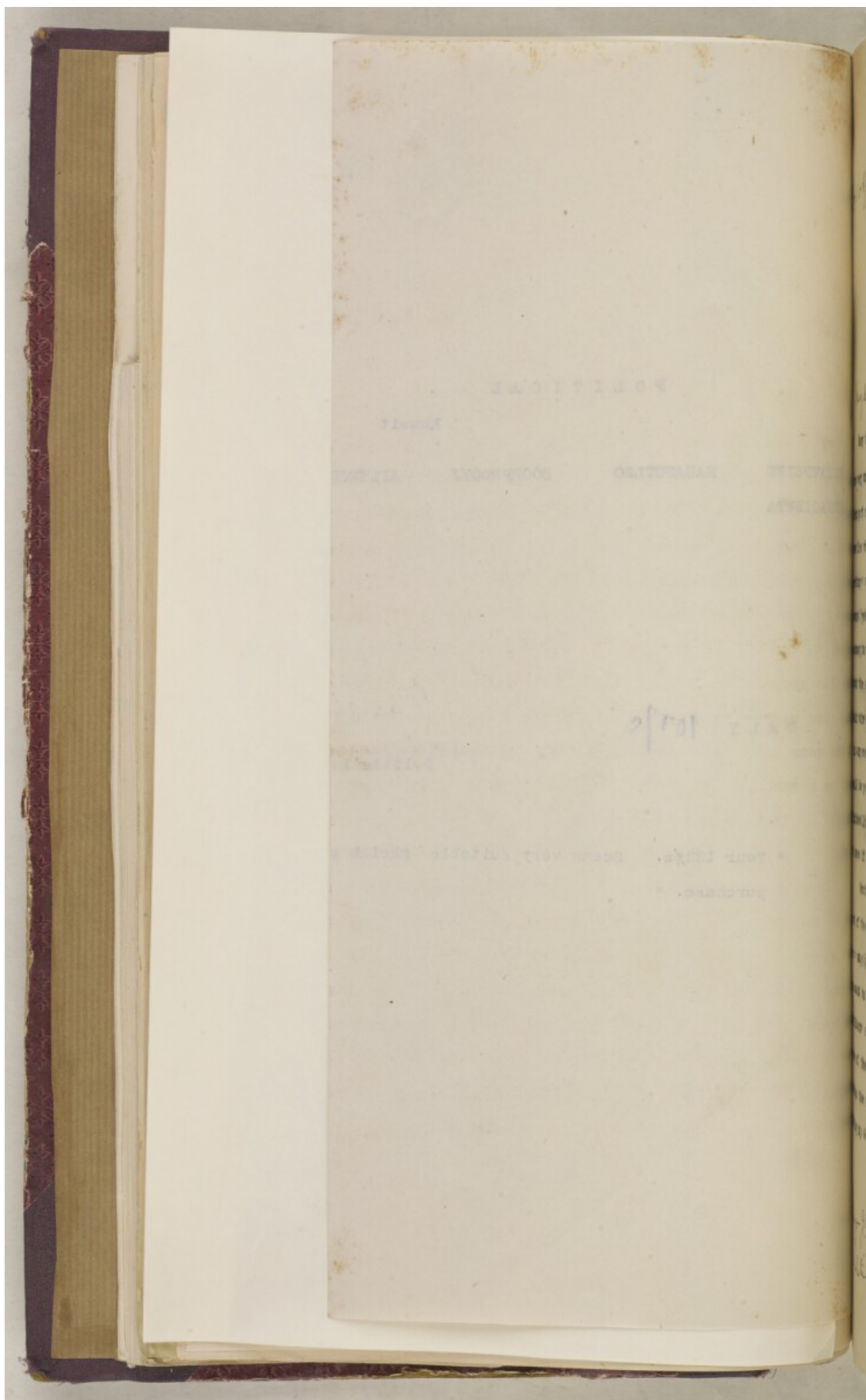
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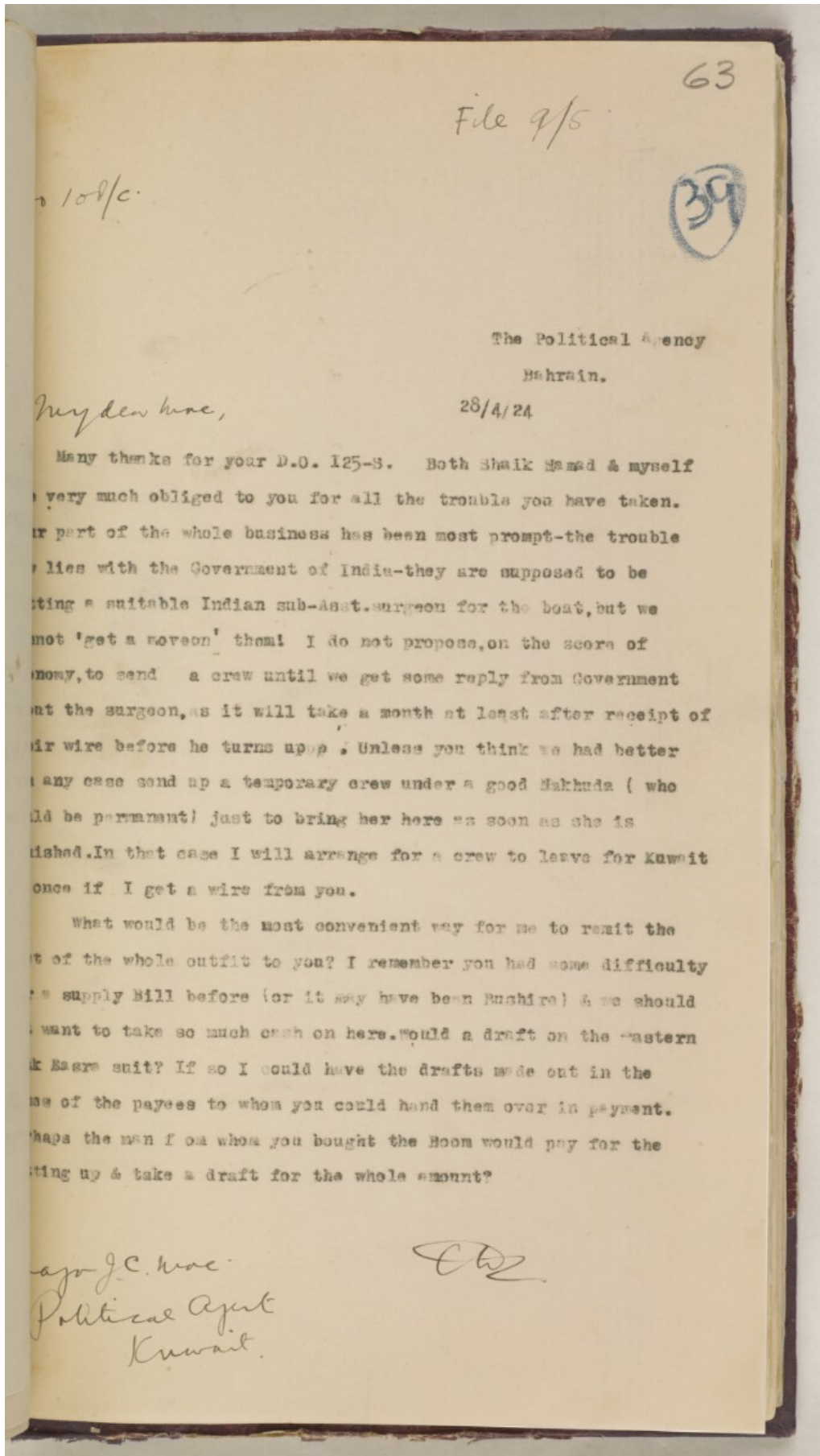
We are very glad to hear of your success in the pearling business!

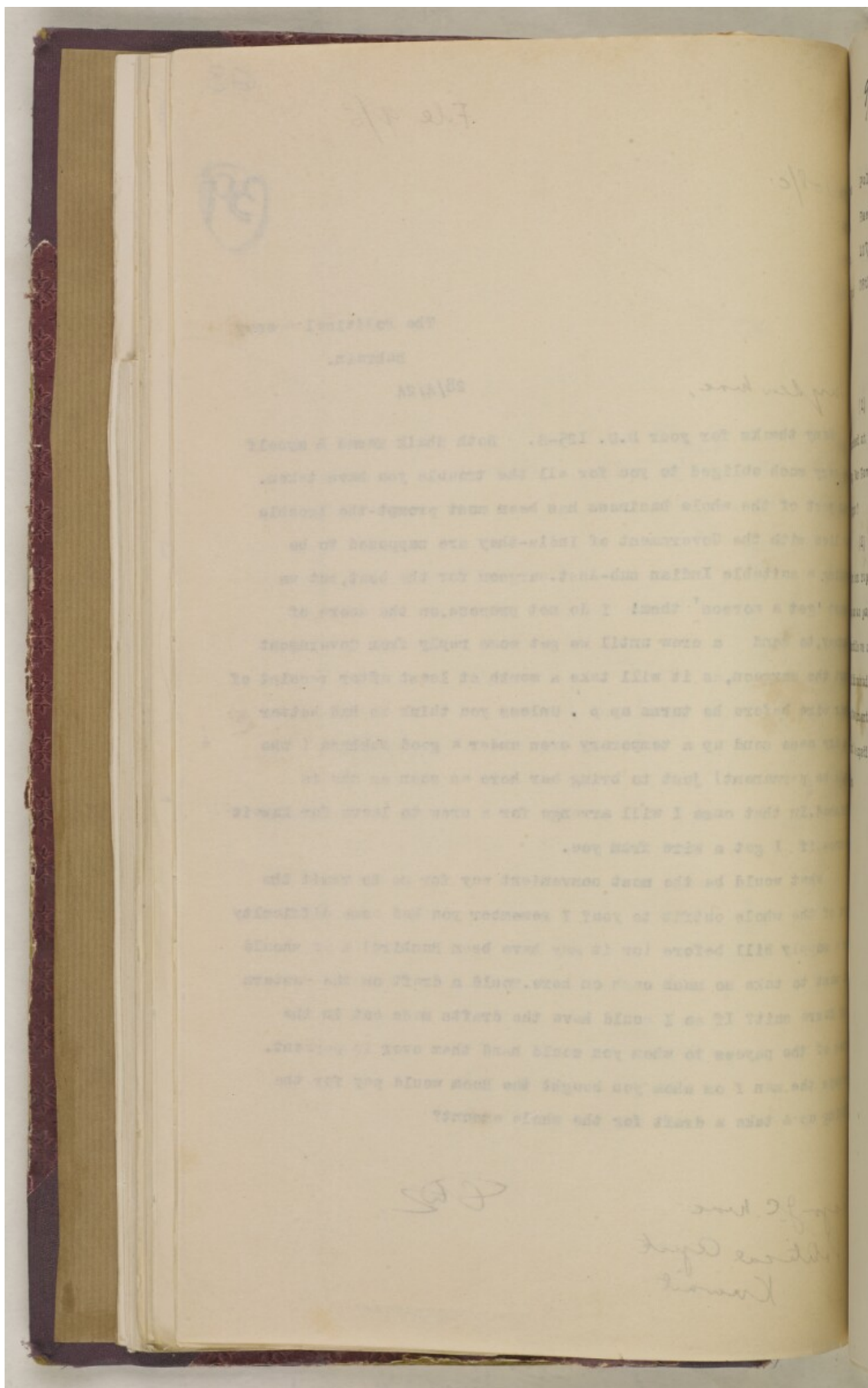
Best wishes!

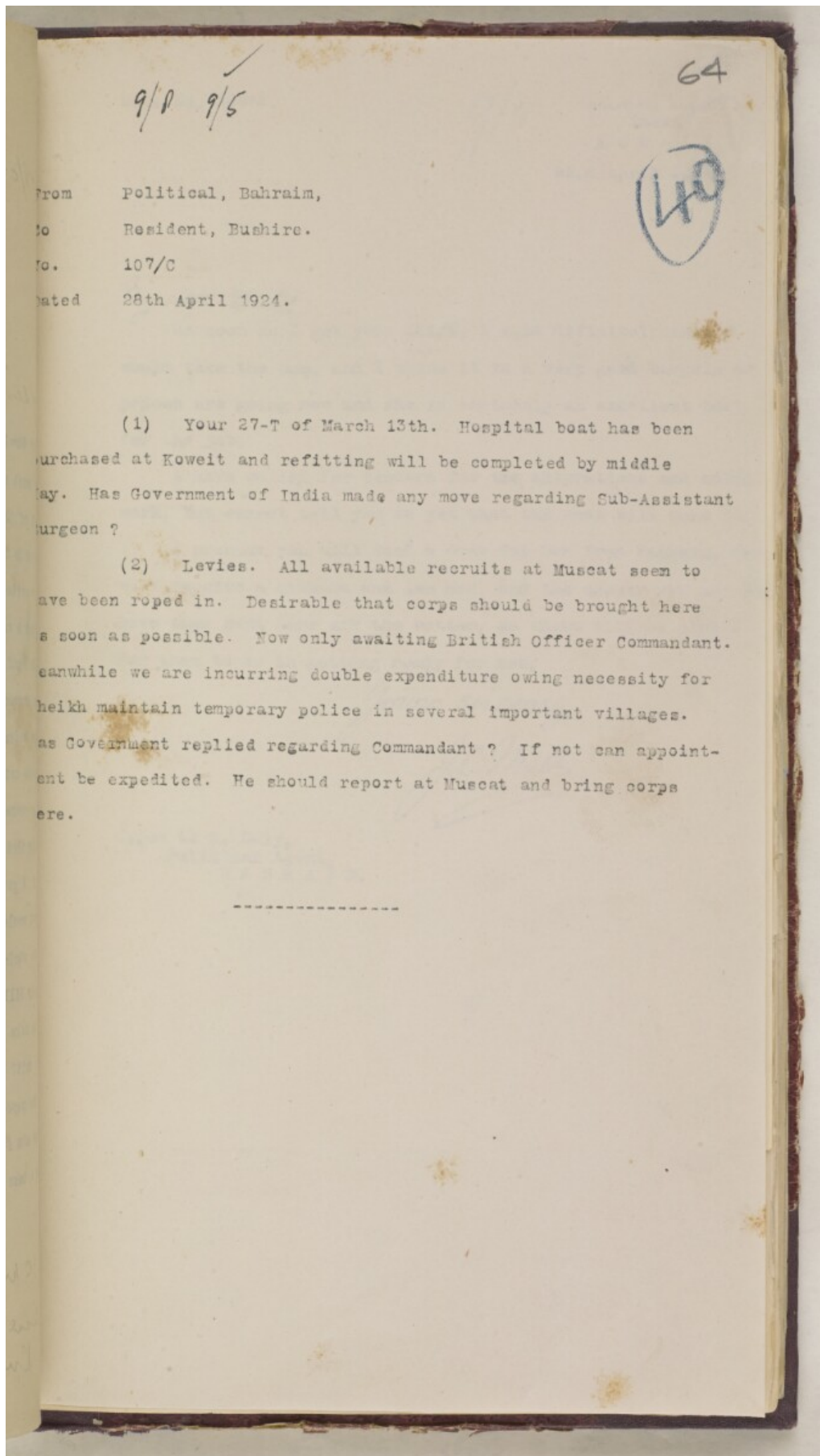












9/10 9/5

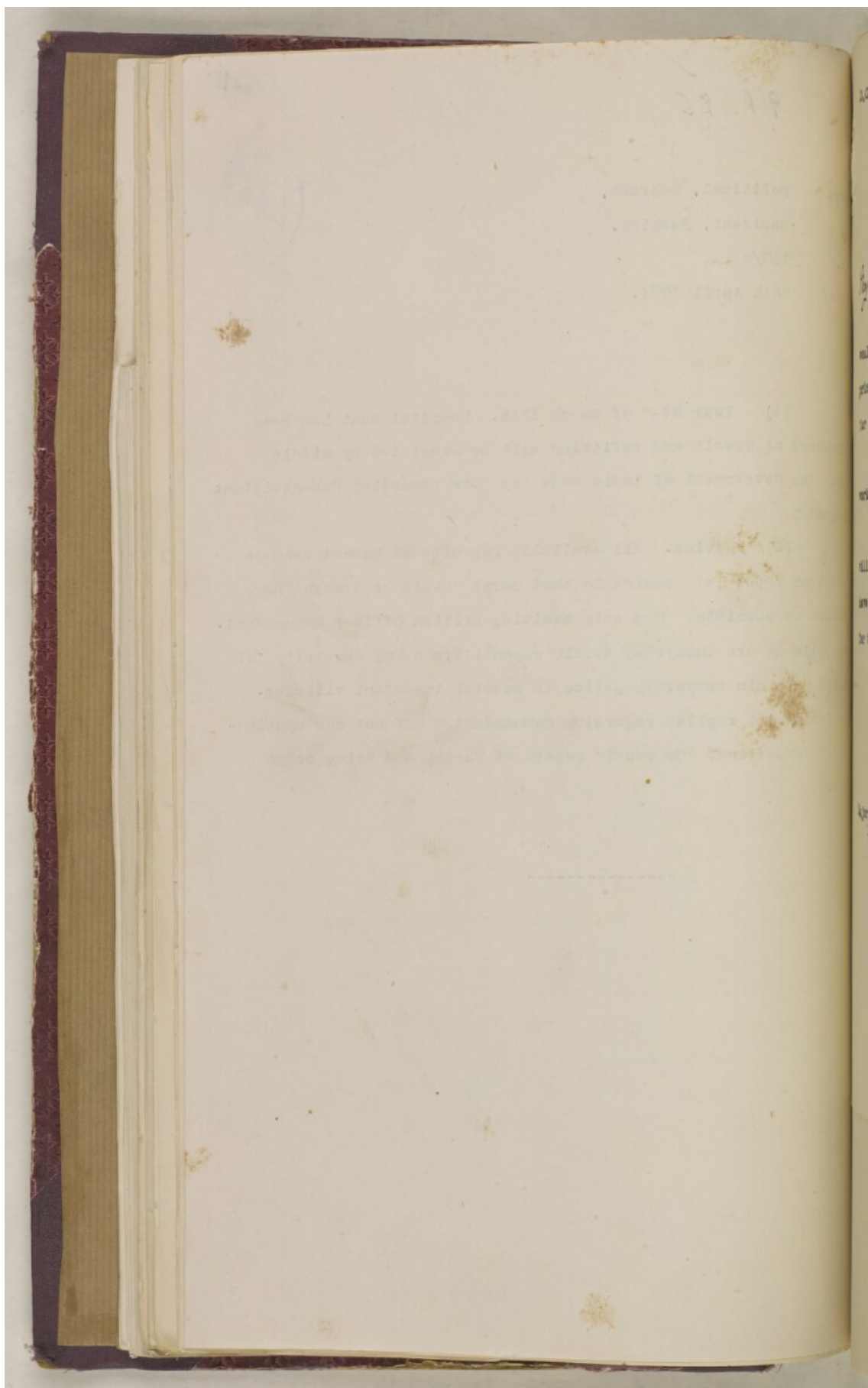
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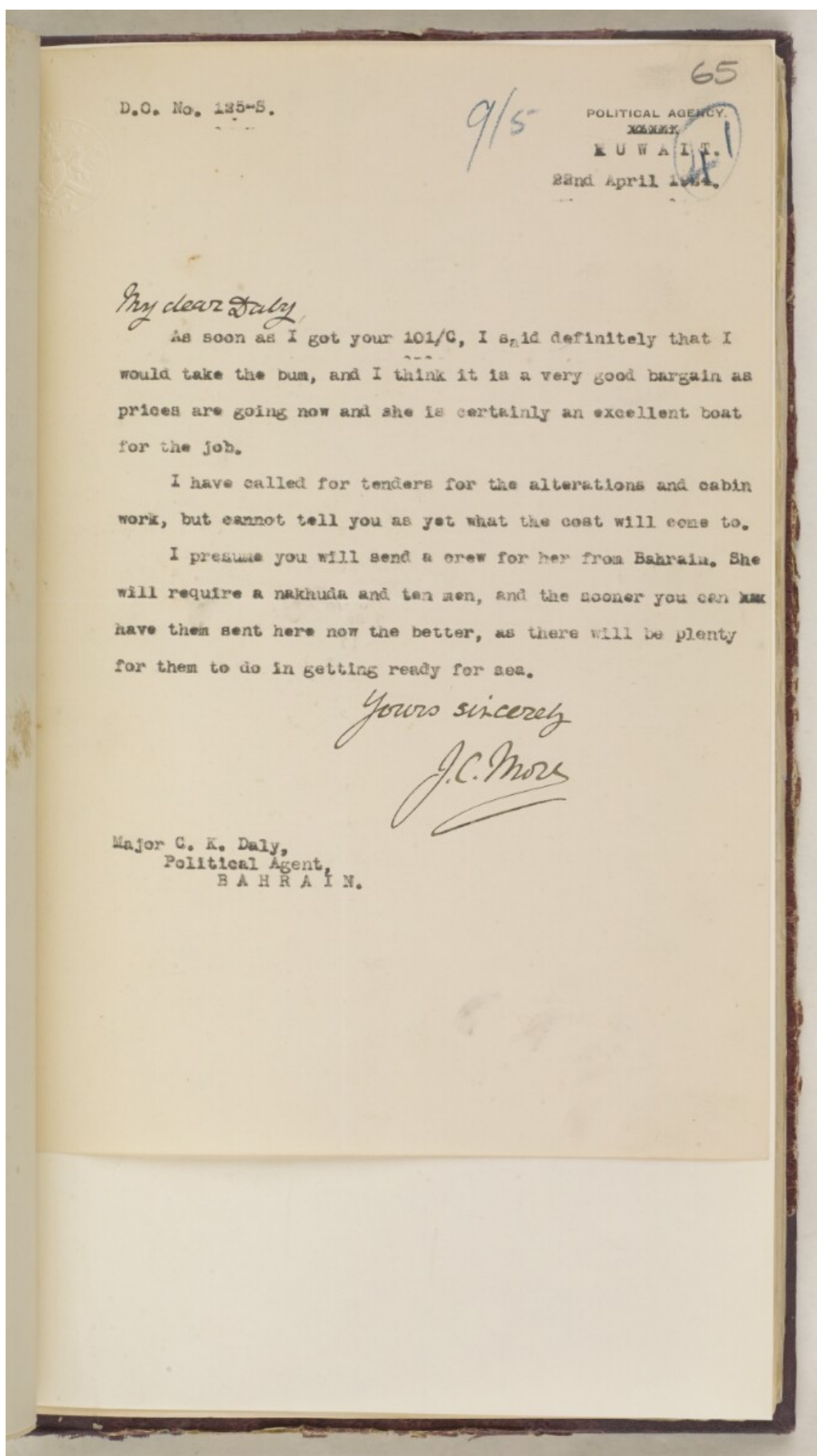
(144)

From Political, Bahraim,
to Resident, Bushire.
No. 107/C
dated 28th April 1924.

(1) Your 27-T of March 13th. Hospital boat has been purchased at Koweit and refitting will be completed by middle May. Has Government of India made any move regarding Sub-Assistant Surgeon ?

(2) Levies. All available recruits at Muscat seem to have been roped in. Desirable that corps should be brought here as soon as possible. Now only awaiting British Officer Commandant. Meanwhile we are incurring double expenditure owing necessity for heikh maintain temporary police in several important villages. Has Government replied regarding Commandant ? If not can appointment be expedited. He should report at Muscat and bring corps here.





D.O. No. 135-S.

POLITICAL AGENCY.

~~XXXXX~~

KUWAIT.

22nd April 1911.

My dear Daly,

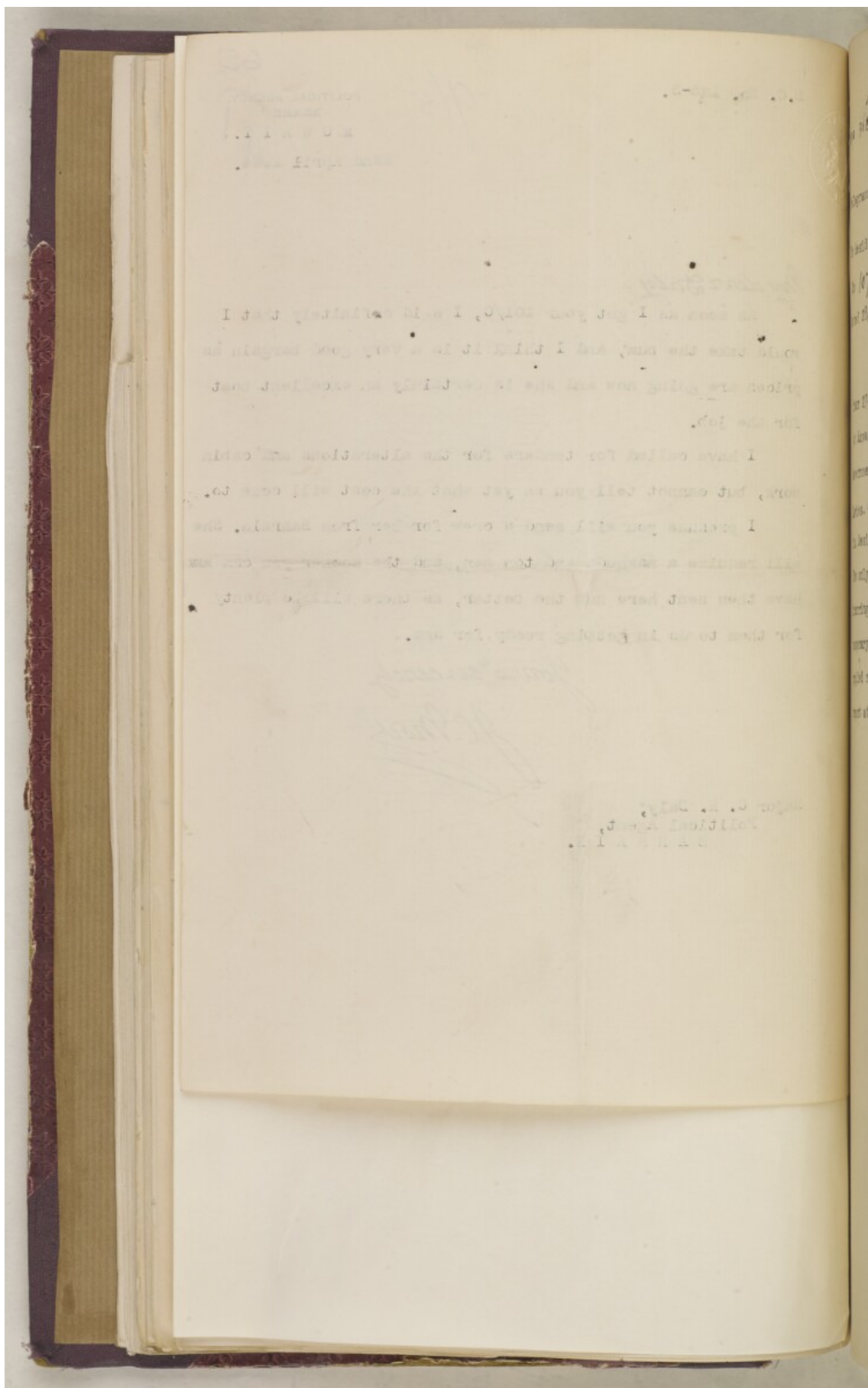
As soon as I got your 101/C, I said definitely that I would take the baa, and I think it is a very good bargain as prices are going now and she is certainly an excellent boat for the job.

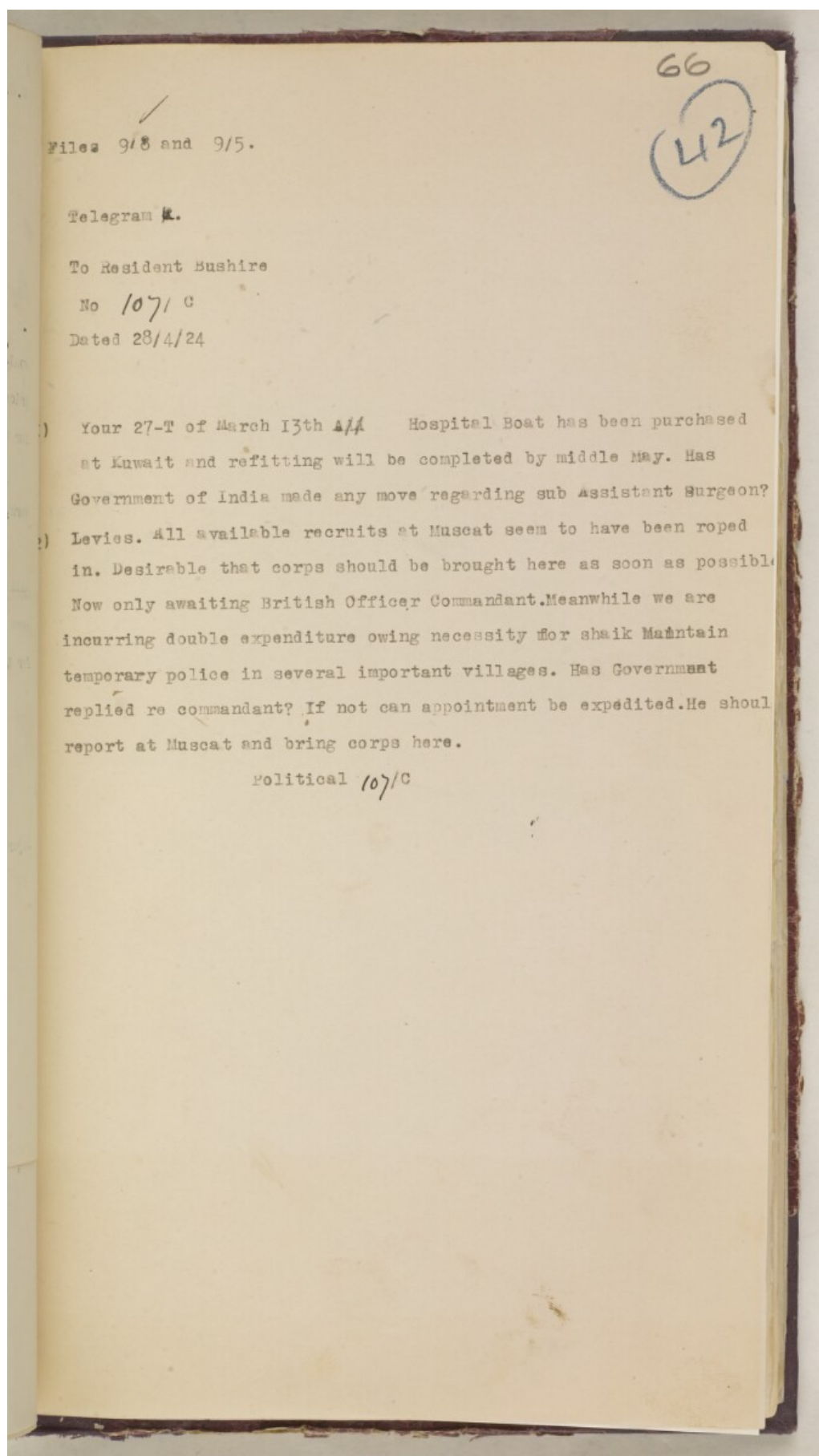
I have called for tenders for the alterations and cabin work, but cannot tell you as yet what the cost will come to.

I presume you will send a crew for her from Bahrain. She will require a nakhuda and ten men, and the sooner you can have them sent here now the better, as there will be plenty for them to do in getting ready for sea.

Yours sincerely
J.C. Moss

Major G. K. Daly,
Political Agent,
BAHRAIN.





Files 9/8 and 9/5.

Telegram ~~to~~.

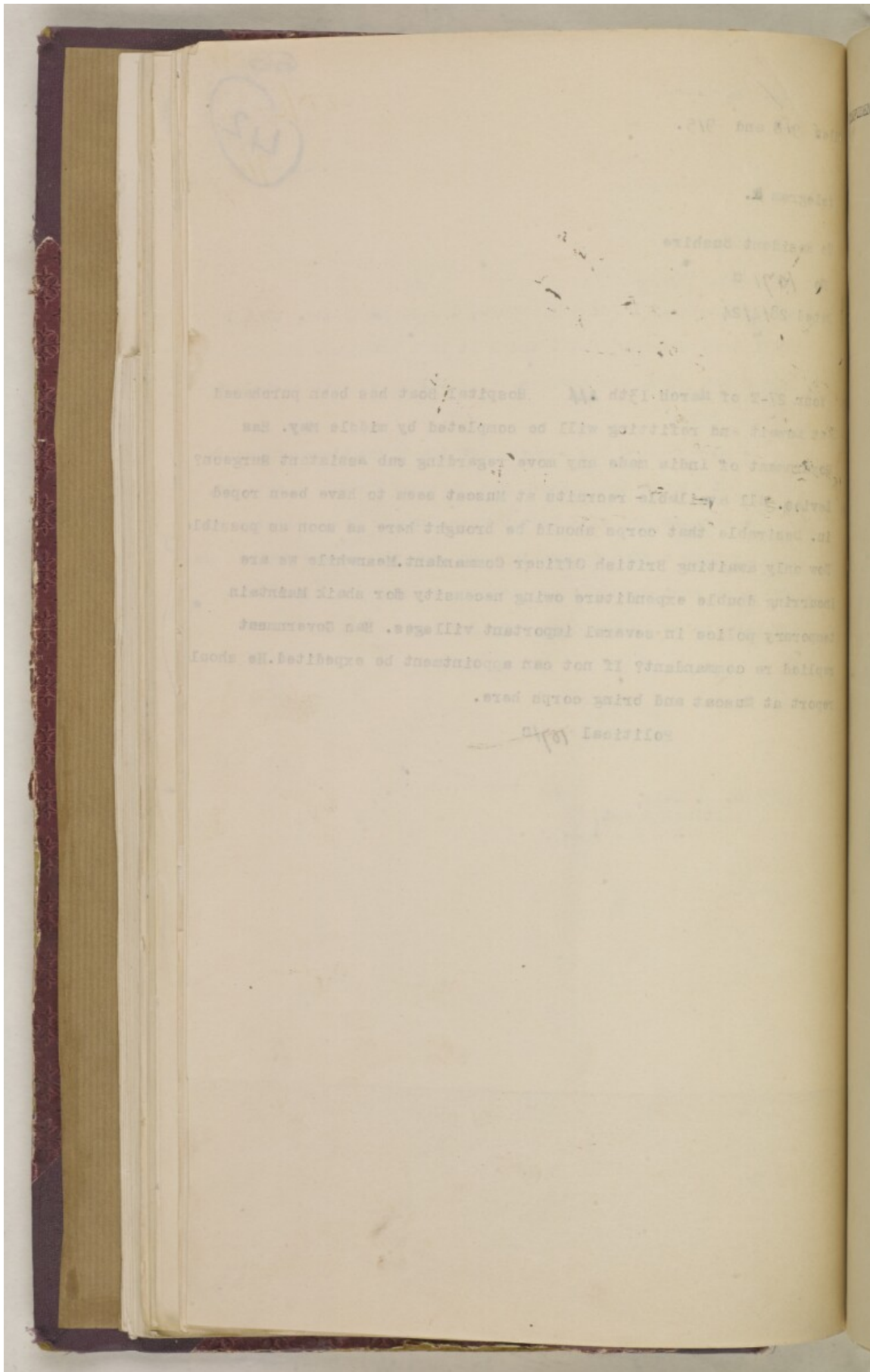
To Resident Bushire

No 107/C

Dated 28/4/24

- 1) Your 27-T of March 13th ~~4/4~~ Hospital Boat has been purchased at Kuwait and refitting will be completed by middle May. Has Government of India made any move regarding sub Assistant Surgeon?
- 2) Levies. All available recruits at Muscat seem to have been roped in. Desirable that corps should be brought here as soon as possible. Now only awaiting British Officer Commandant. Meanwhile we are incurring double expenditure owing necessity for shaik maintain temporary police in several important villages. Has Government replied re commandant? If not can appointment be expedited. He should report at Muscat and bring corps here.

Political 107/C





CONFIDENTIAL.

67
27^s/c

No. 701 -S of 1923.

9/3/1

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 18th December 1923.

Copy of the undermentioned paper is forwarded
with compliments to the Political Agent, Bahrain, with
reference to this office telegram No. 1163 dated 17th
December 1923, for information.

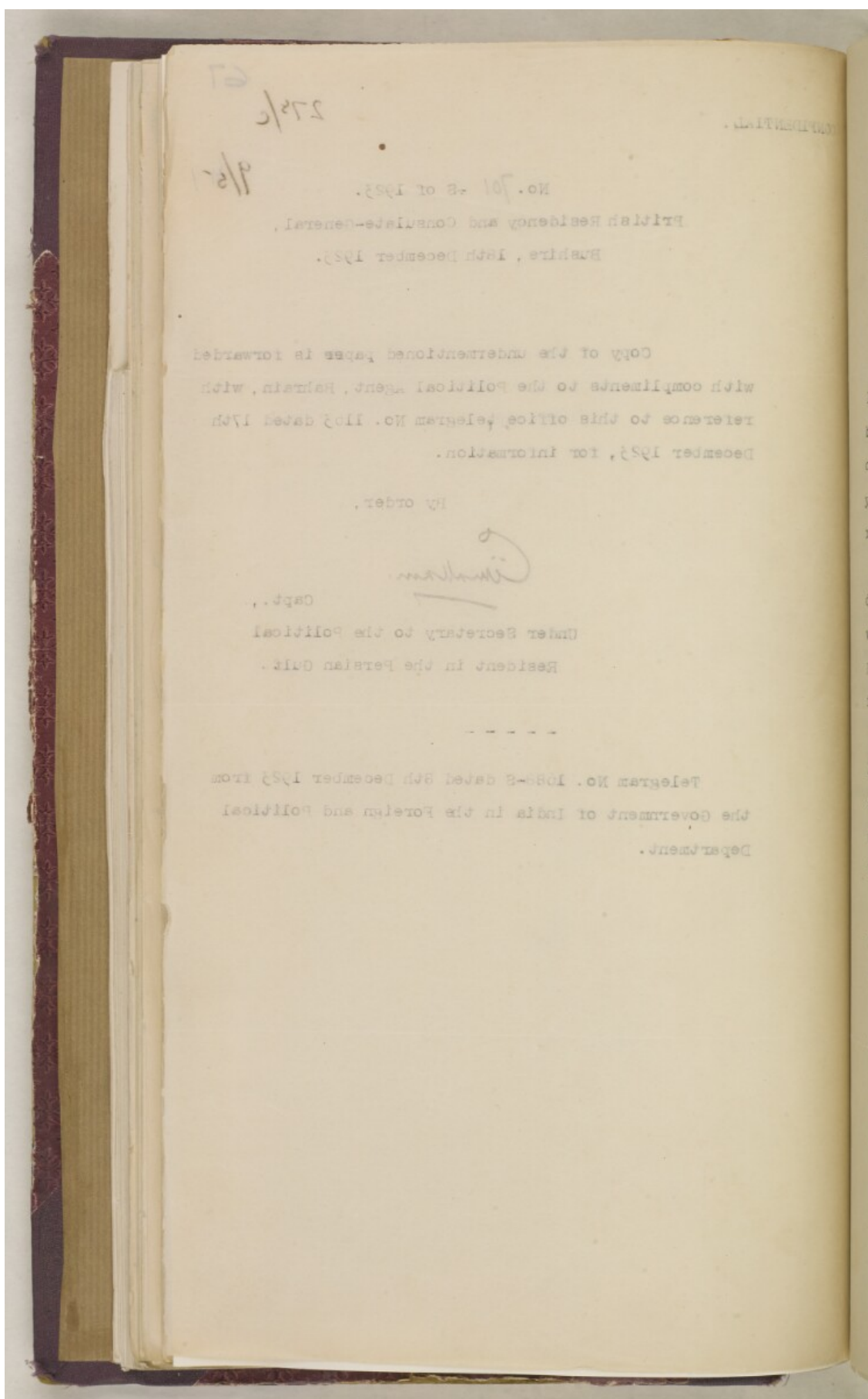
By order,

Cimallam

Capt.,

Under Secretary to the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Telegram No. 1688-S dated 8th December 1923 from
the Government of India in the Foreign and Political
Department.





68

Telegram R.
From Foreign, Delhi.
To Resident, Bushire.
No. 1688-S.
Dated 8th received 9th December 1923.

Your despatch No. 622-S.

See Government of India's telegram of May 14th No. 654-S. Are you not in danger of going rather beyond what is there laid down? Before your proposals can be considered in detail please furnish best summary you can of Bahrain State budget for current year and reply to following questions.

(a) Now that Customs have been put in order, do you not think that they could be managed sufficiently well under the joint supervision of the Shaikh and the Political Agent by Arab functionary from Iraq or even from Egypt, thus eliminating one permanent British Officer?

(b) Please estimate the cost of Levy Force of 100 Baluchis on Muscat model with and without British officer. Possibly High Commissioner, Iraq, could lend suitable officer for six months. If you concur he will be addressed.

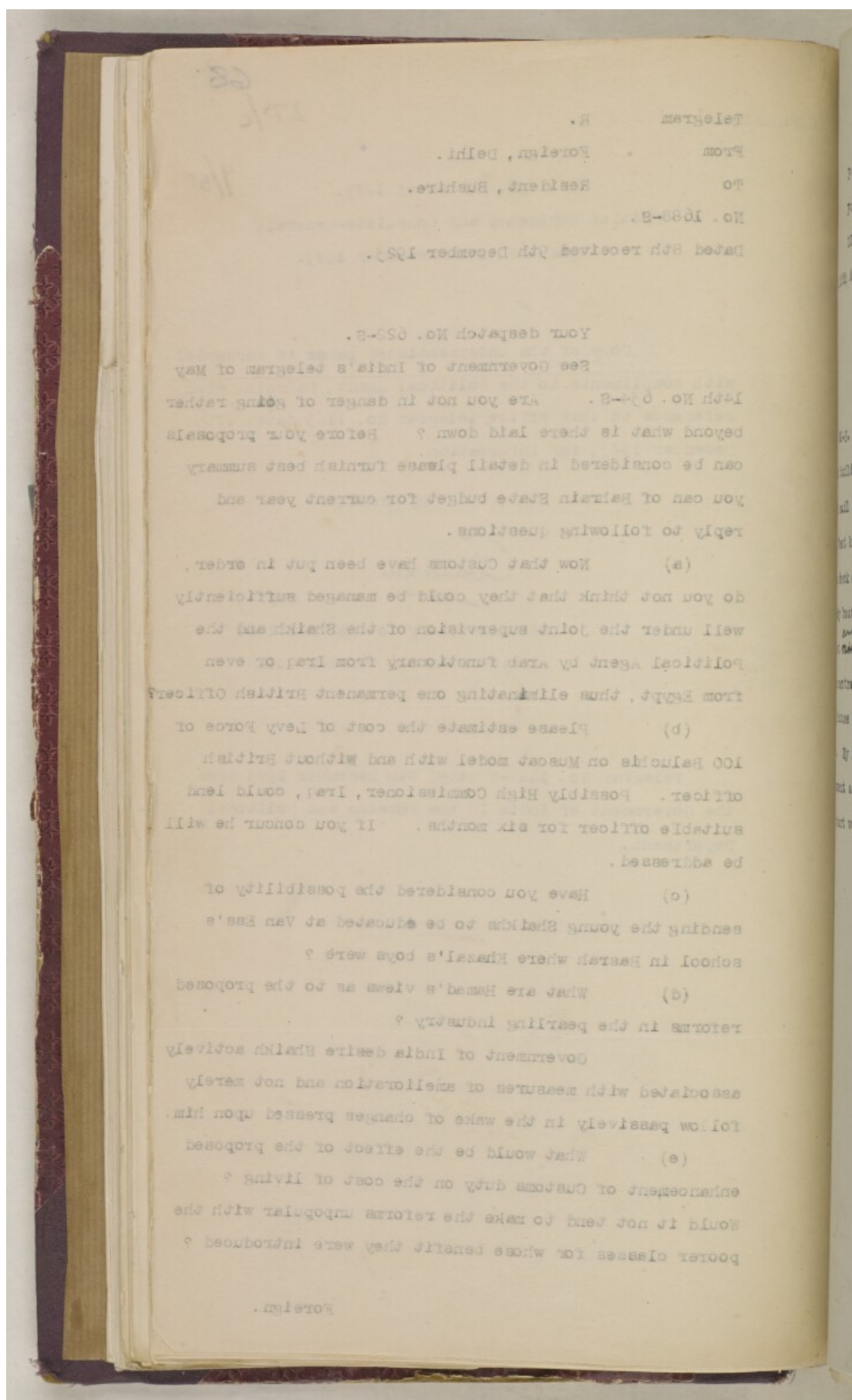
(c) Have you considered the possibility of sending the young Shaikhs to be educated at Van Ess's school in Basrah where Khazal's boys were?

(d) What are Hamad's views as to the proposed reforms in the pearling industry?

Government of India desire Shaikh actively associated with measures of amelioration and not merely follow passively in the wake of changes pressed upon him.

(e) What would be the effect of the proposed enhancement of Customs duty on the cost of living? Would it not tend to make the reforms unpopular with the poorer classes for whose benefit they were introduced?

Foreign.



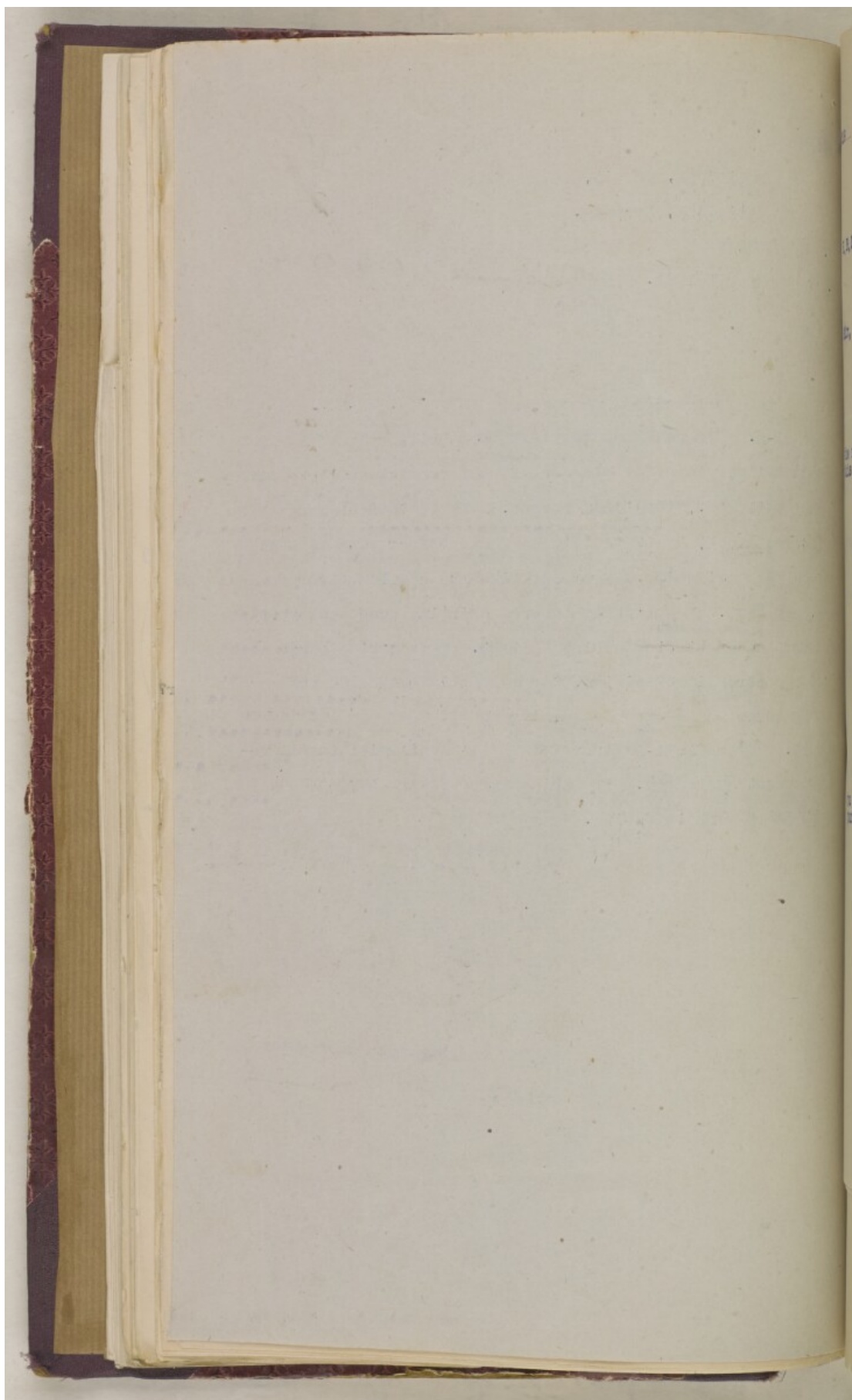


From Political, Kuwait,
To Political, Bahrain.
No. 122/S
Dated 15th April 1924.

Received 16-4-1924

69
9/5

" My 91-S. I recommend new teak boom built ^{as} by Hamad Saqar
best builder here for his own ^{use} which I can get complete with
mast sail etc., for 14000 rupees. It is 75 feet long
(54 feet keel) by 17 feet in beam and 7 feet down to keel
from deck amidships. From her line she should be very
steady boat. I purposely lowered existing poop deck about
2 feet ^{and building} ~~under~~ binding cabins on that. I suggest passage
down centre with Assistant Surgeon cabin surgeries and
wash house on the starboard side and sickbay and latrine on the
port. My medical Officer this will fulfil re-
quirement admirably. If Sheikh agree I will buy at once
and start work ^{on} ~~in~~ cabins. "





165 9/5 70

Custom House,

PA/29

BAHREIN.

Date, 8th May 1924 ~~192~~

H.B.M'S Political Agent,
Bahrein

Sir,

Boat Registrations,
and
Pearl Licenses

I have the honour to report that, as at the end of
the month of Ramdhan, the number of boats registered at
this port amounts to.....1,317.

Of the above number, the boats registered for pearling
amount to..... 602.

The number of pearling licenses issued is..... 378

The number of boats noted under 'Mhammys' is..... 123

The number of pearl boats for which licenses have
not yet been issued is..... 101

Total number of pearling boats..... 602.

The fees paid for Boat Registration amount to....Rs. 6,655.

" " " " Pearl Licenses " "...." 47,794

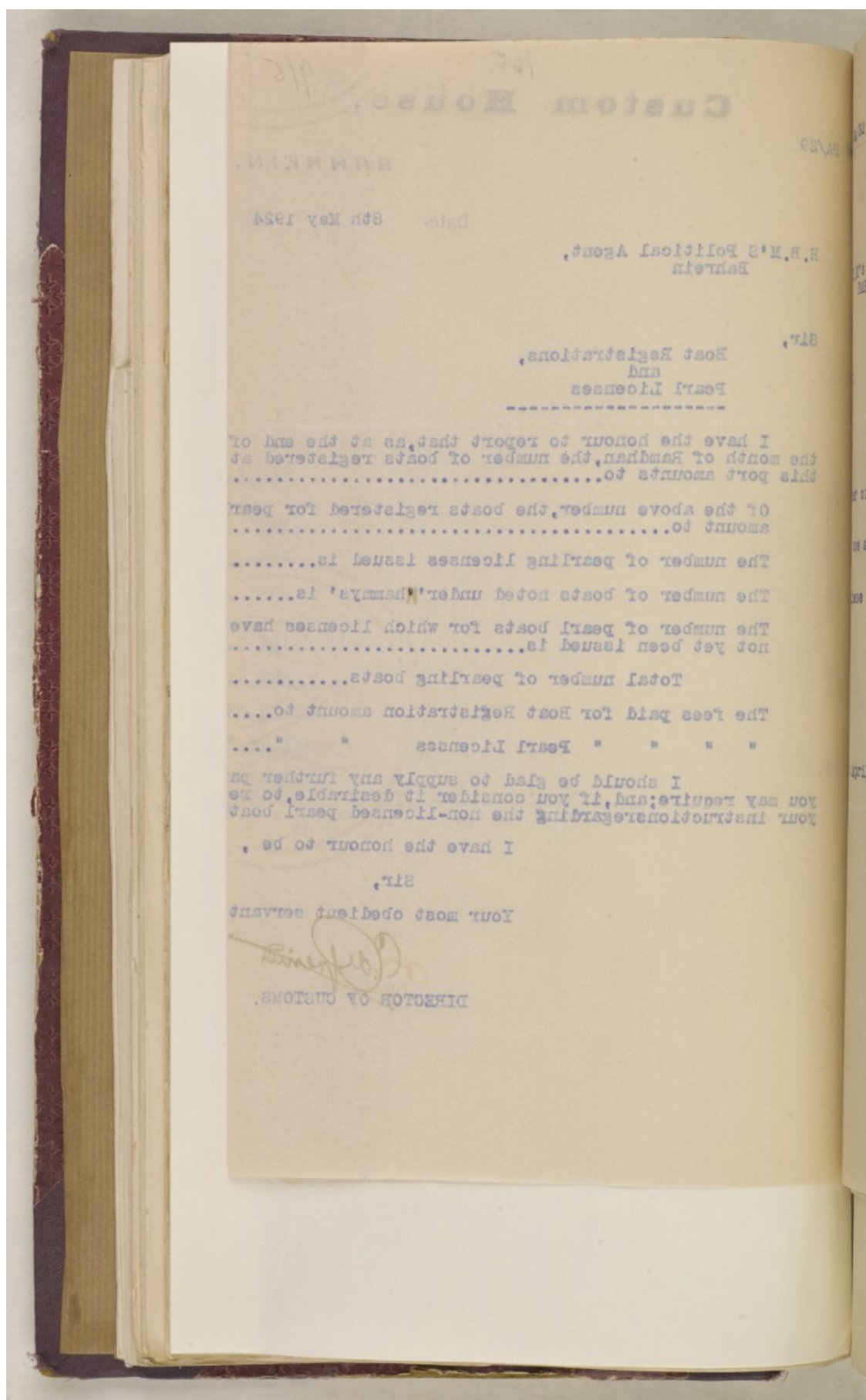
I should be glad to supply any further particulars
you may require; and, if you consider it desirable, to receive
your instructions regarding the non-licensed pearl boats.

I have the honour to be ,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Edmund
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS.





186 71

PA/32.

Custom House, 9/5

BAHREIN.

Date, 12th May, 1924.

H.B.M.'s Political Agent,
BAHREIN.

Sir,

Boat Registrations
and
Pearl Licenses.

I have the honour to report that, at date, the
number of boats registered at this port is 1,321.

Of the above, the number of boats registered
for use at the Pearl fisheries is, 604.

The number of Pearl Licenses issued in respect
of these boats is 386

The number of Pearl boats noted under "Khammos", 150

The number of Pearl boats unlicensed is 68
604

Boats have been noted under "Khammos" between
30th April and up to date.

The fees received for Boat Registration are Rs 6,685/-

The fees received for Pearl Licenses are: Rs 49,368/-

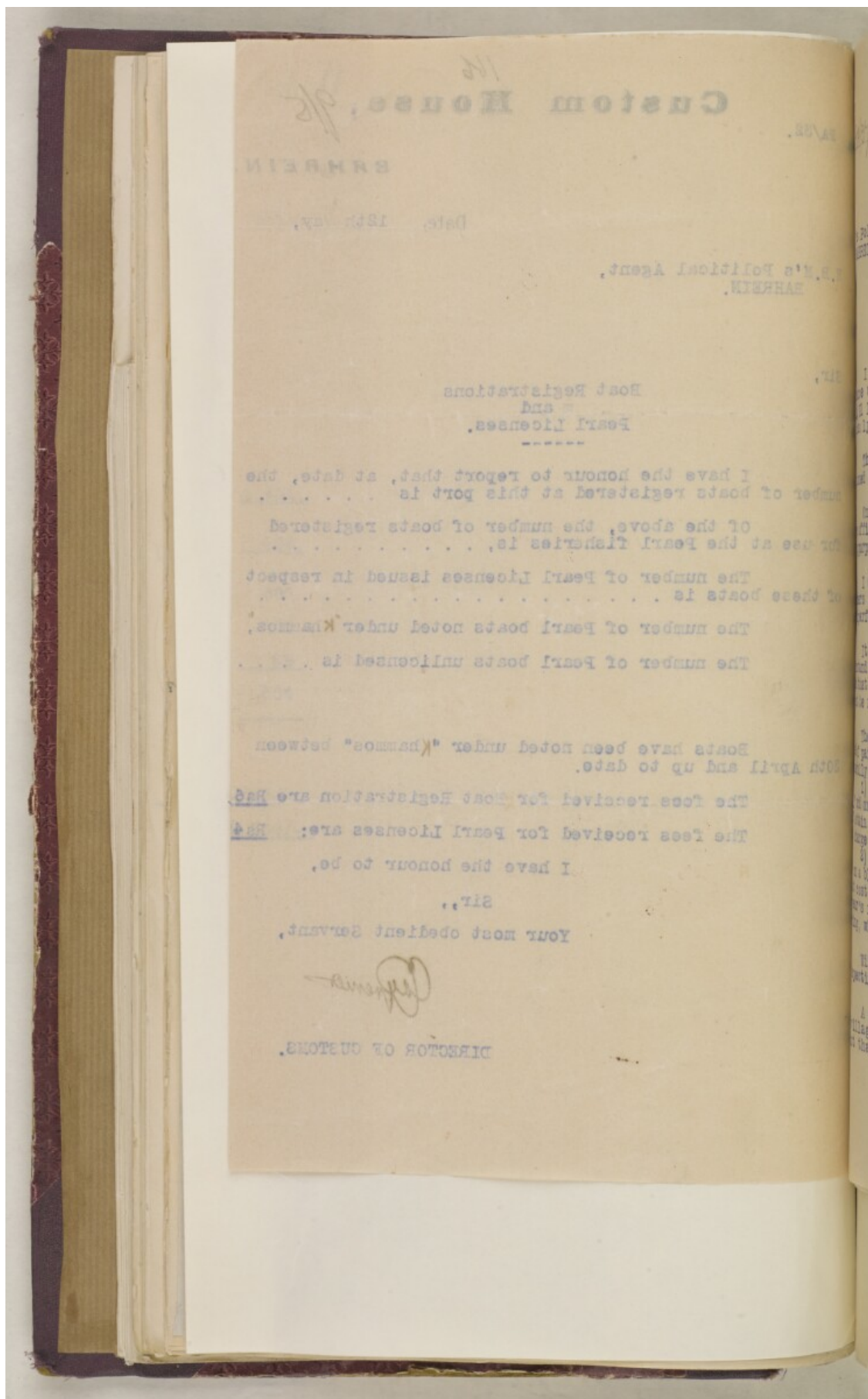
I have the honour to be,

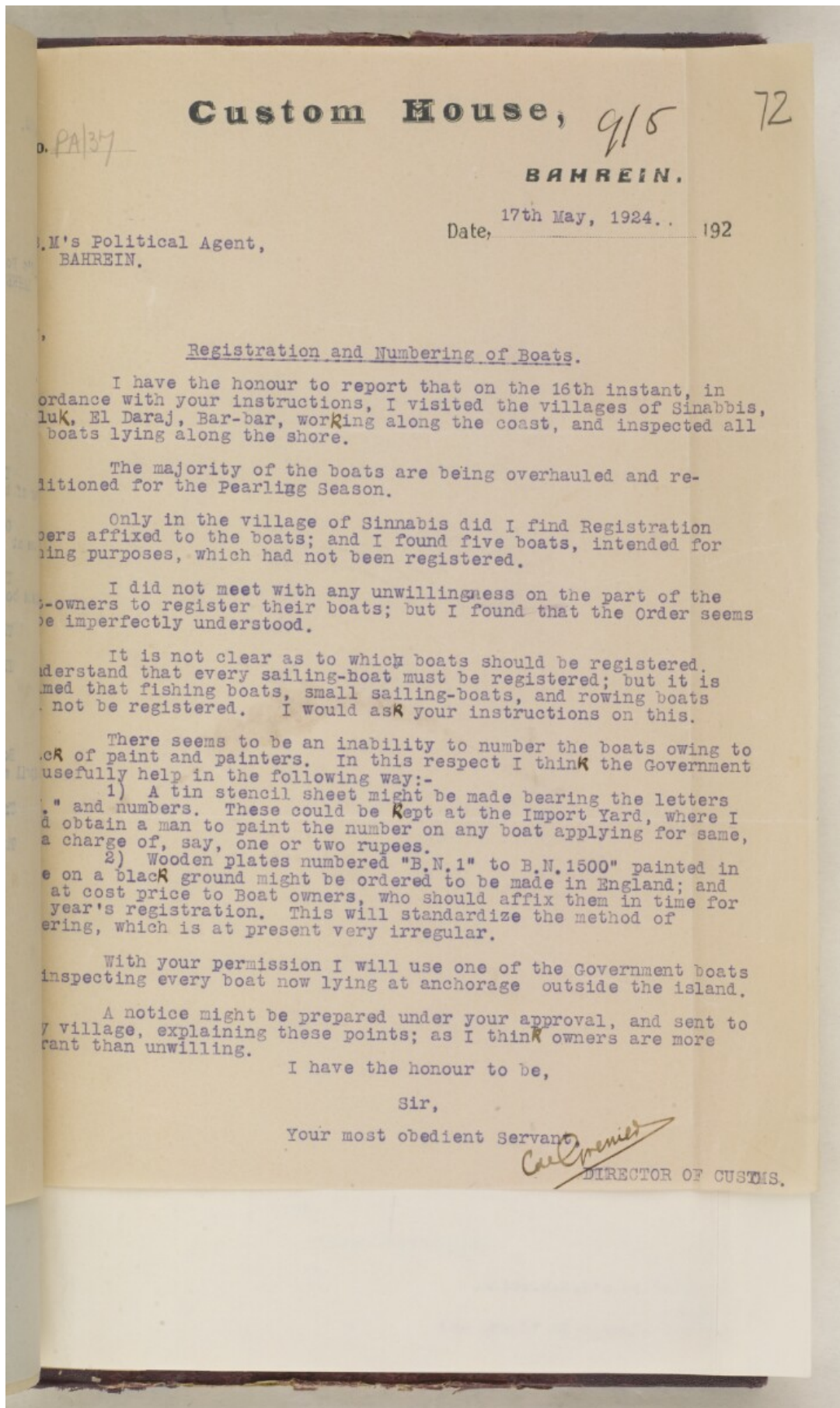
Sir,,

Your most obedient Servant,

Caprenia

DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS.





Custom House,

BAHREIN.

Date, 17th May, 1924. 192

M's Political Agent,
BAHREIN.

Registration and Numbering of Boats.

I have the honour to report that on the 16th instant, in accordance with your instructions, I visited the villages of Sinabbis, Luk, El Daraj, Bar-bar, working along the coast, and inspected all boats lying along the shore.

The majority of the boats are being overhauled and re-fitted for the Pearling Season.

Only in the village of Sinnabis did I find Registration papers affixed to the boats; and I found five boats, intended for fishing purposes, which had not been registered.

I did not meet with any unwillingness on the part of the owners to register their boats; but I found that the Order seems to be imperfectly understood.

It is not clear as to which boats should be registered. I understand that every sailing-boat must be registered; but it is claimed that fishing boats, small sailing-boats, and rowing boats should not be registered. I would ask your instructions on this.

There seems to be an inability to number the boats owing to lack of paint and painters. In this respect I think the Government might usefully help in the following way:-

1) A tin stencil sheet might be made bearing the letters "A" and numbers. These could be kept at the Import Yard, where I could obtain a man to paint the number on any boat applying for same, at a charge of, say, one or two rupees.

2) Wooden plates numbered "B.N.1" to B.N.1500" painted in white on a black ground might be ordered to be made in England; and sold at cost price to Boat owners, who should affix them in time for the year's registration. This will standardize the method of numbering, which is at present very irregular.

With your permission I will use one of the Government boats for inspecting every boat now lying at anchorage outside the island.

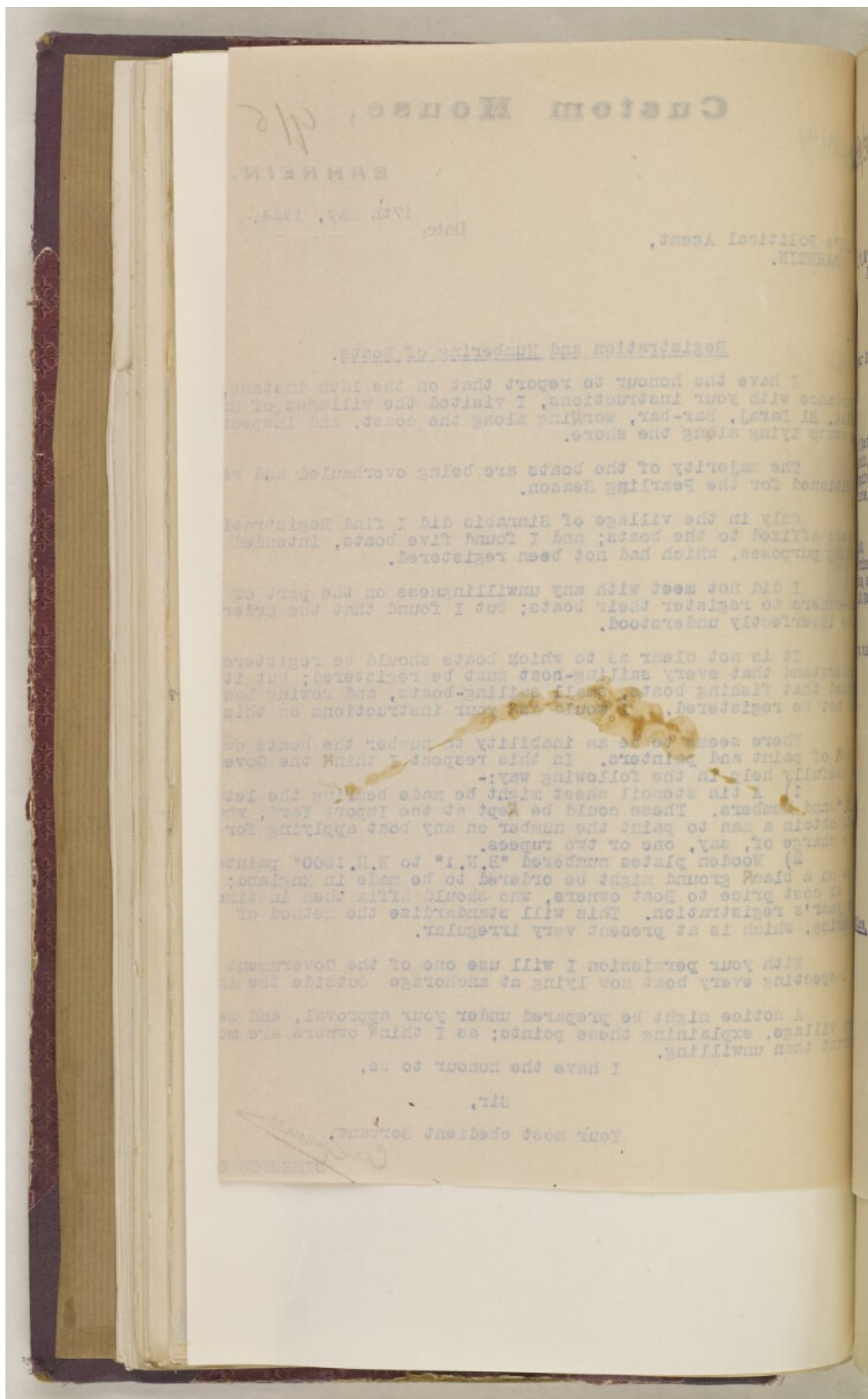
A notice might be prepared under your approval, and sent to every village, explaining these points; as I think owners are more reluctant than unwilling.

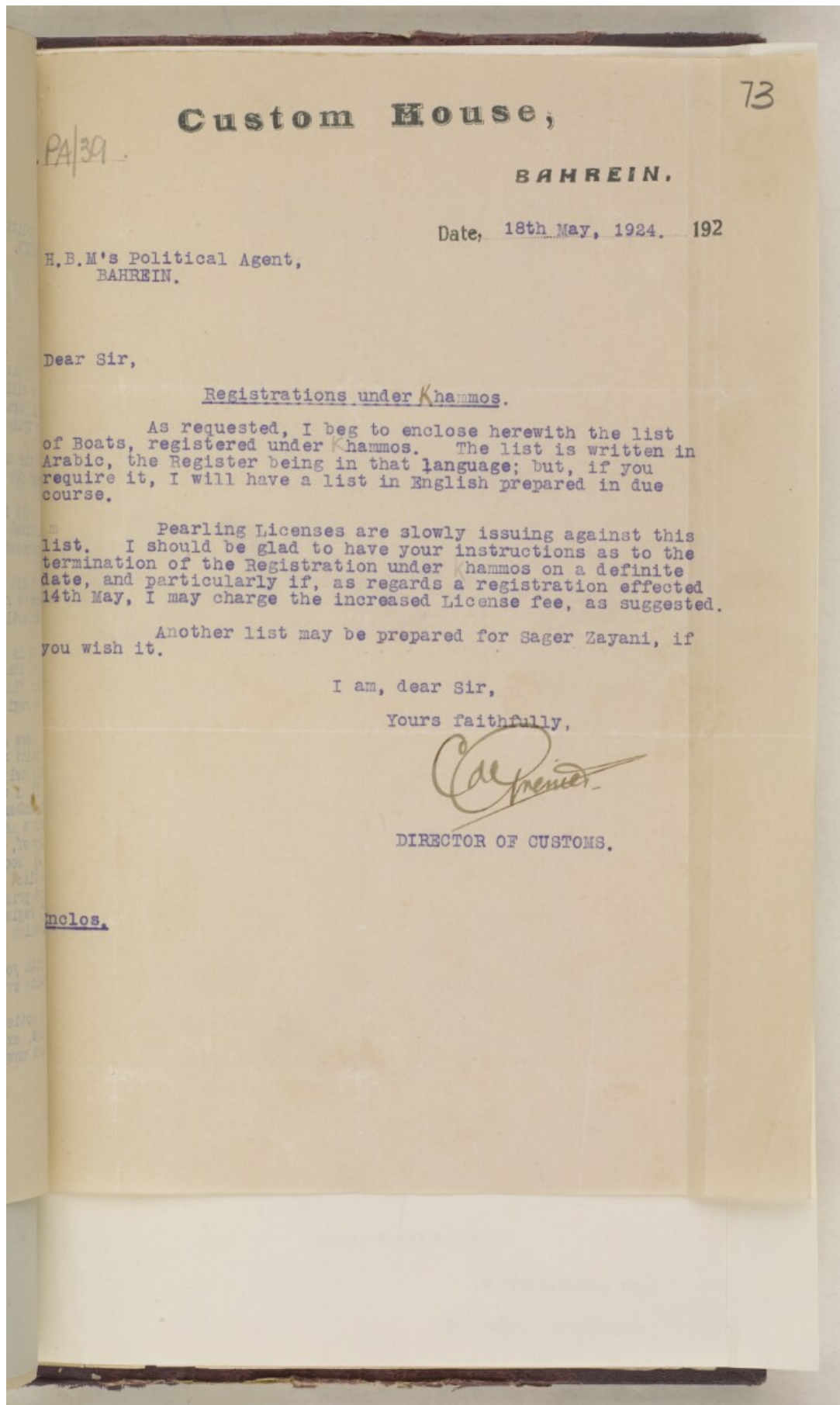
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

C. J. G. M.
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS.





Custom House,

73

BAHREIN.

Date, 18th May, 1924. 192

H.B.M.'s Political Agent,
BAHREIN.

Dear Sir,

Registrations under Khammos.

As requested, I beg to enclose herewith the list of Boats, registered under Khammos. The list is written in Arabic, the Register being in that language; but, if you require it, I will have a list in English prepared in due course.

Pearling Licenses are slowly issuing against this list. I should be glad to have your instructions as to the termination of the Registration under Khammos on a definite date, and particularly if, as regards a registration effected 14th May, I may charge the increased License fee, as suggested.

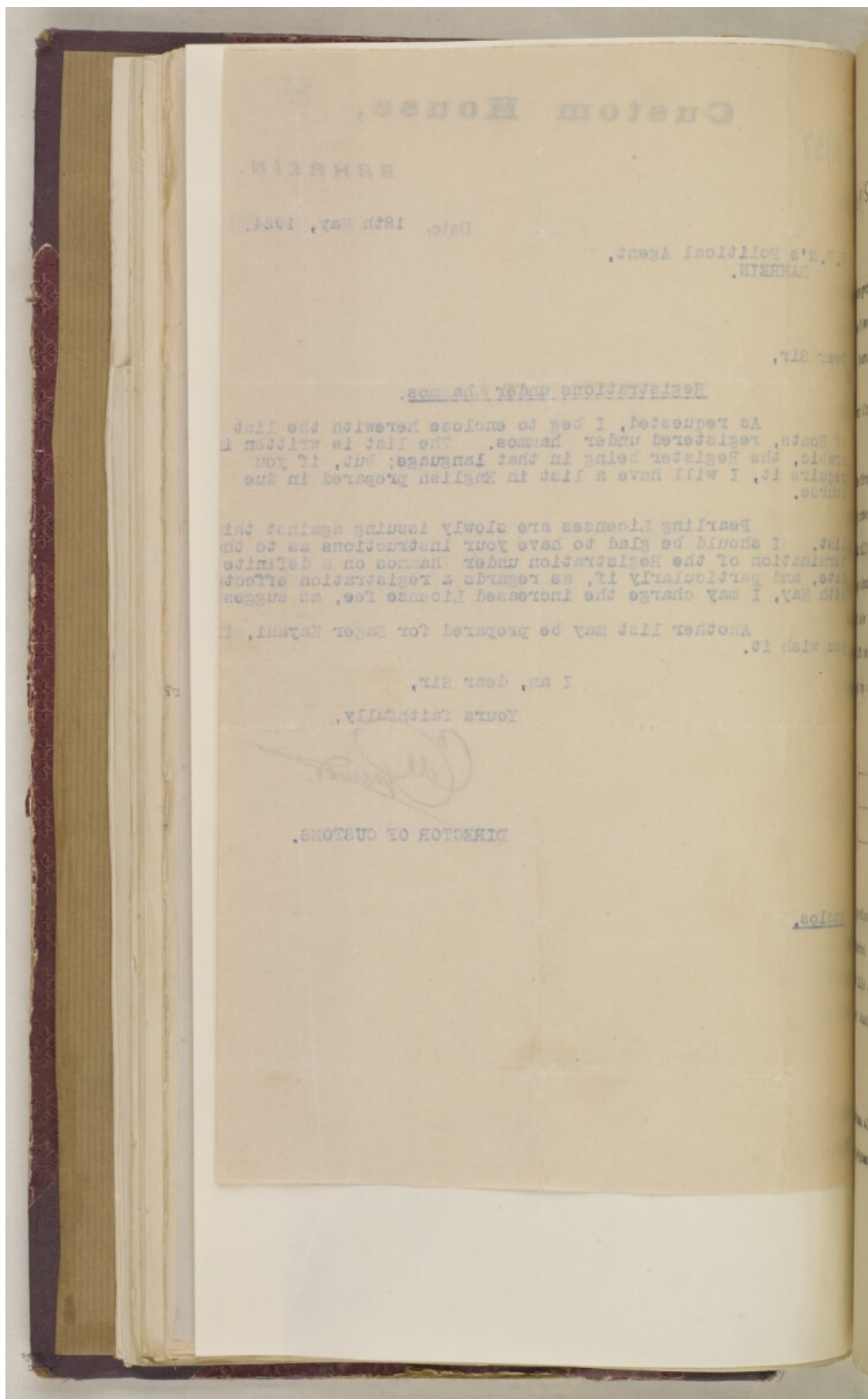
Another list may be prepared for Sager Zayani, if you wish it.

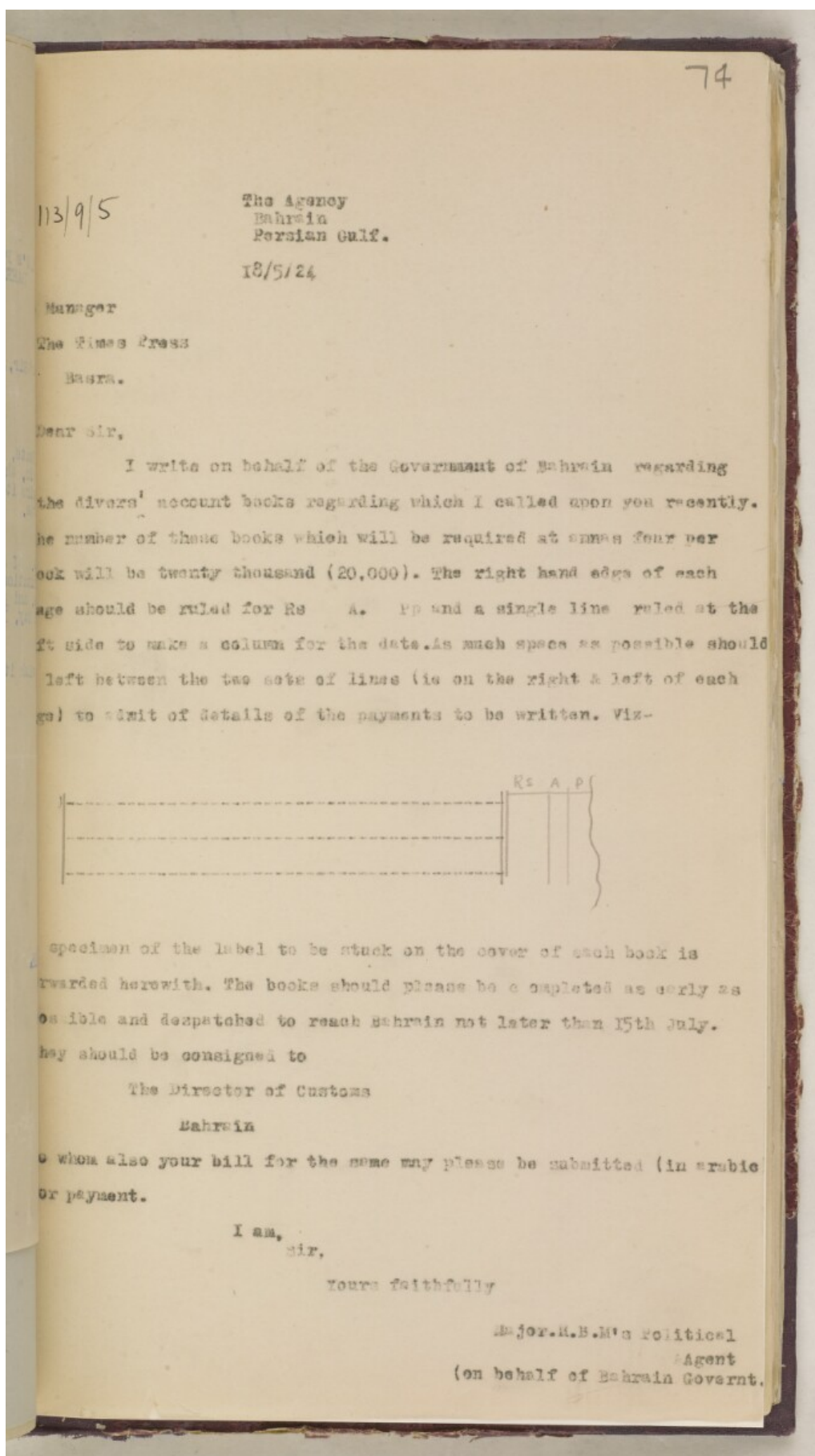
I am, dear Sir,

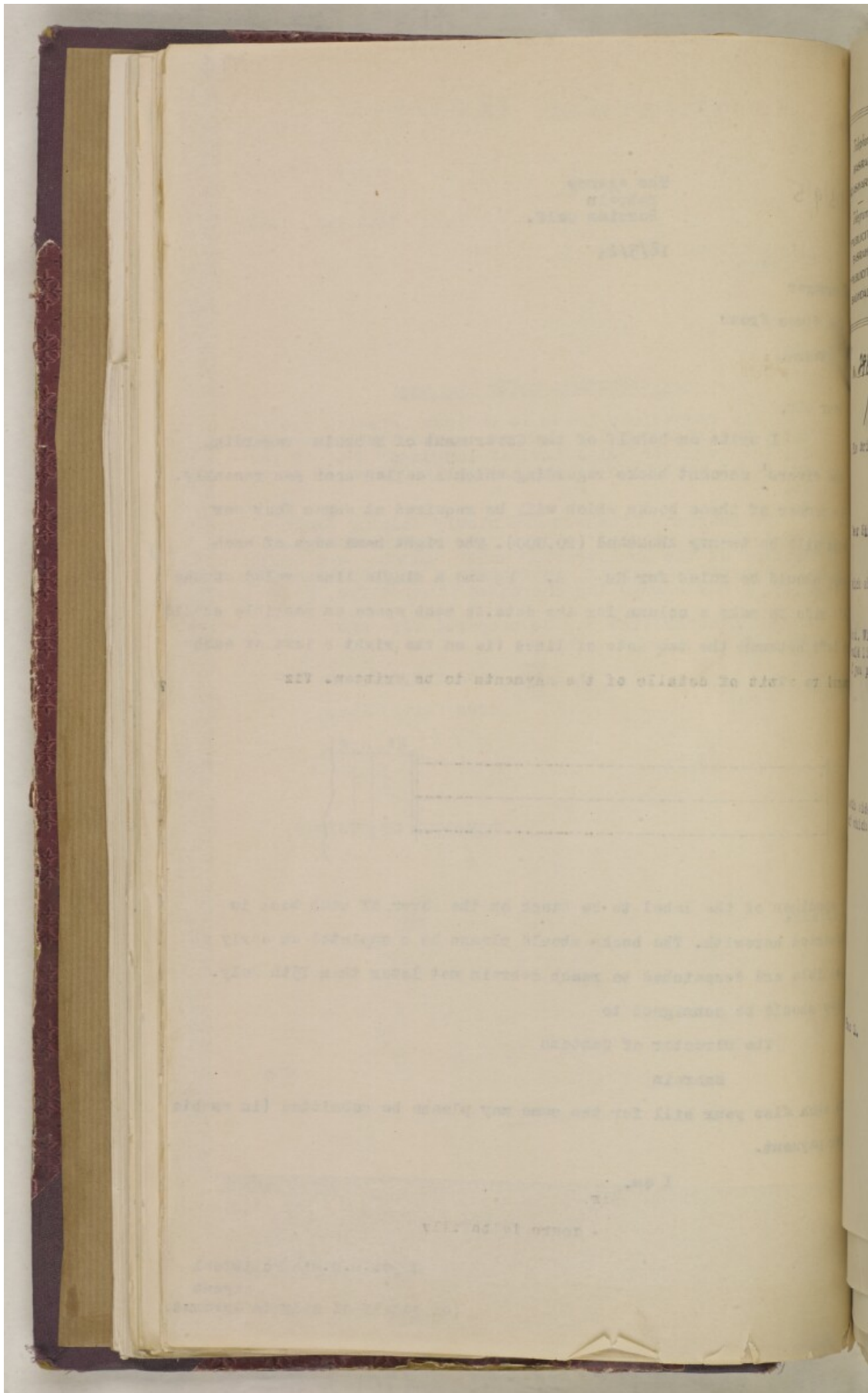
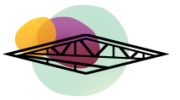
Yours faithfully,

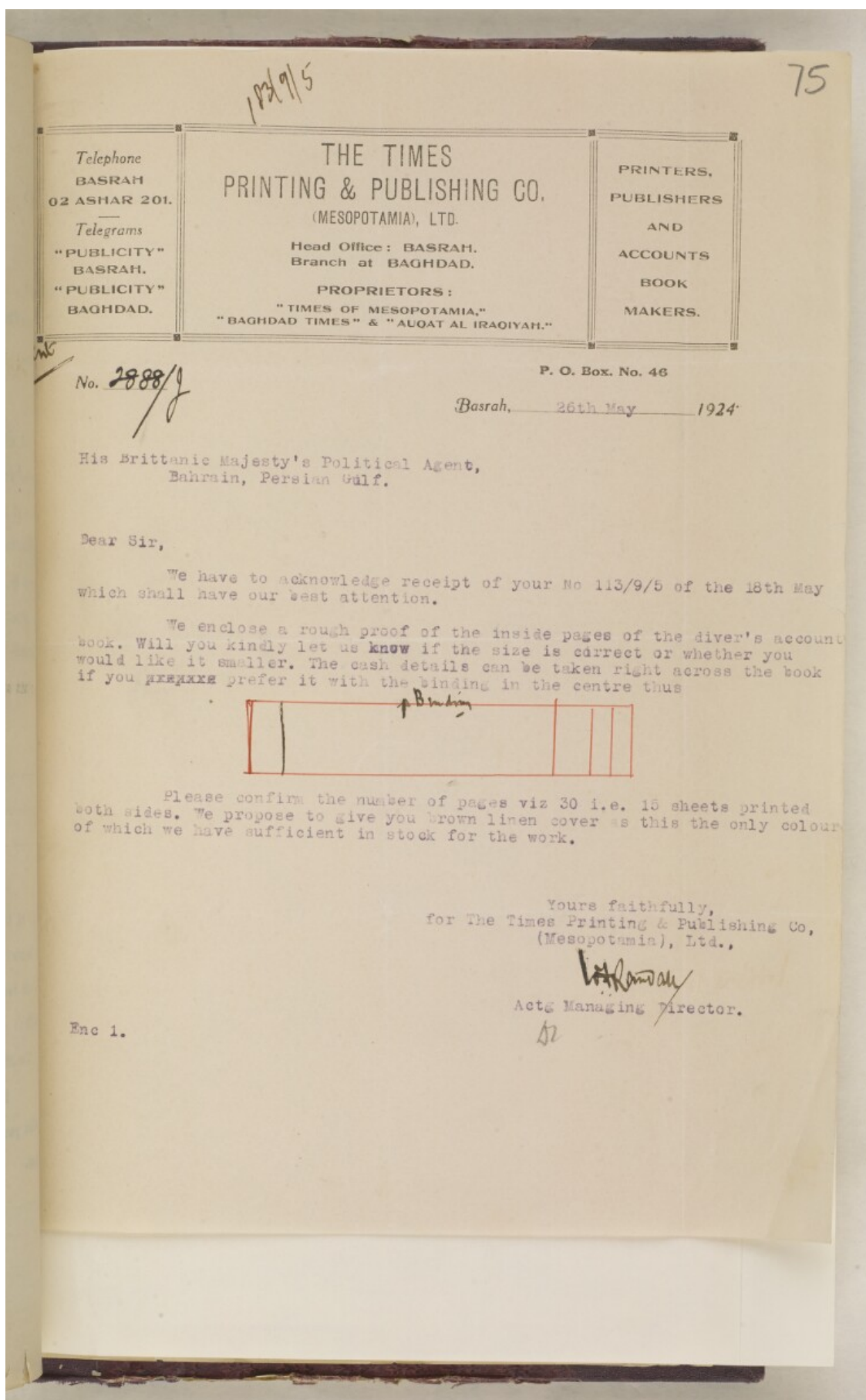
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS.

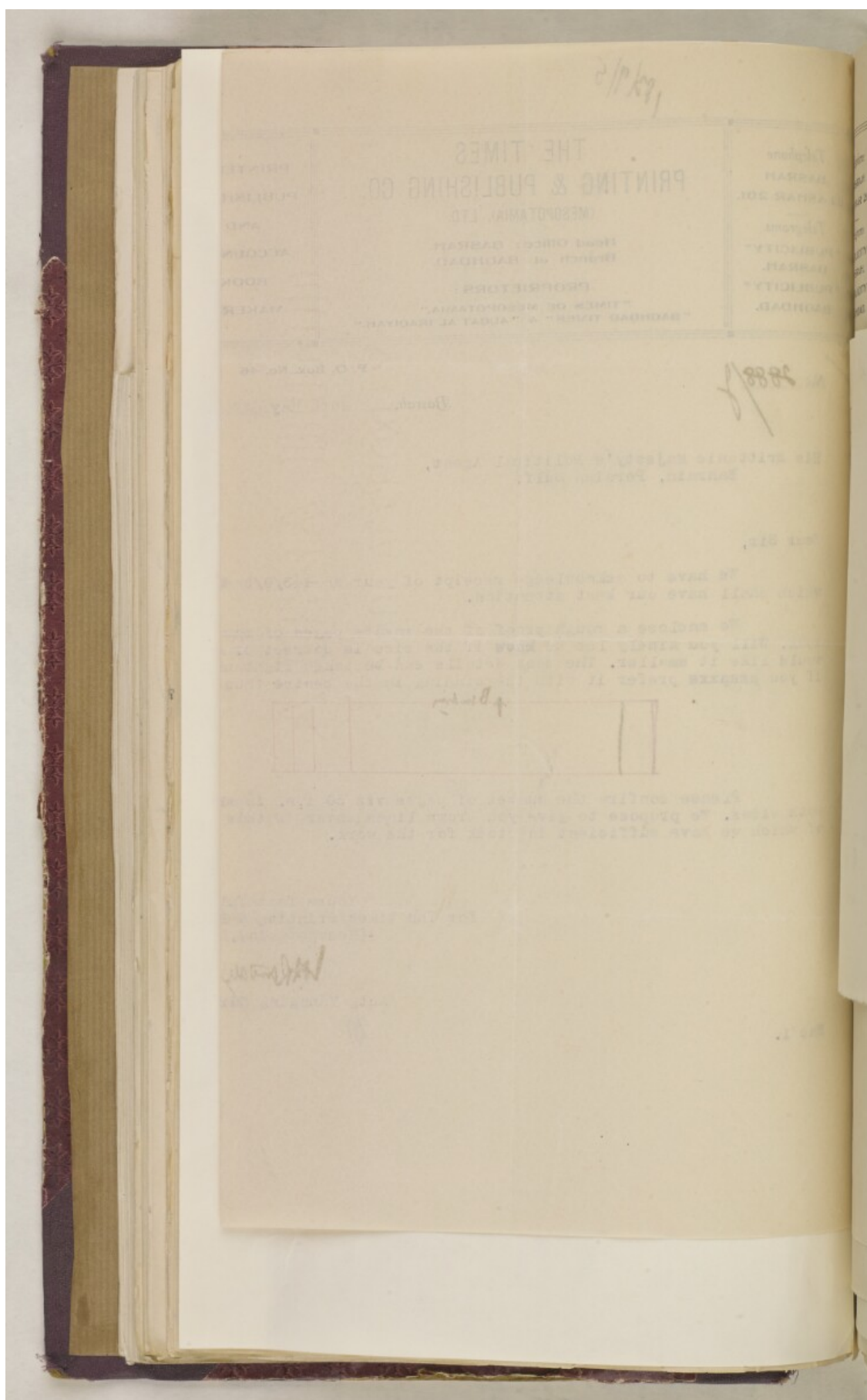
Enclos.

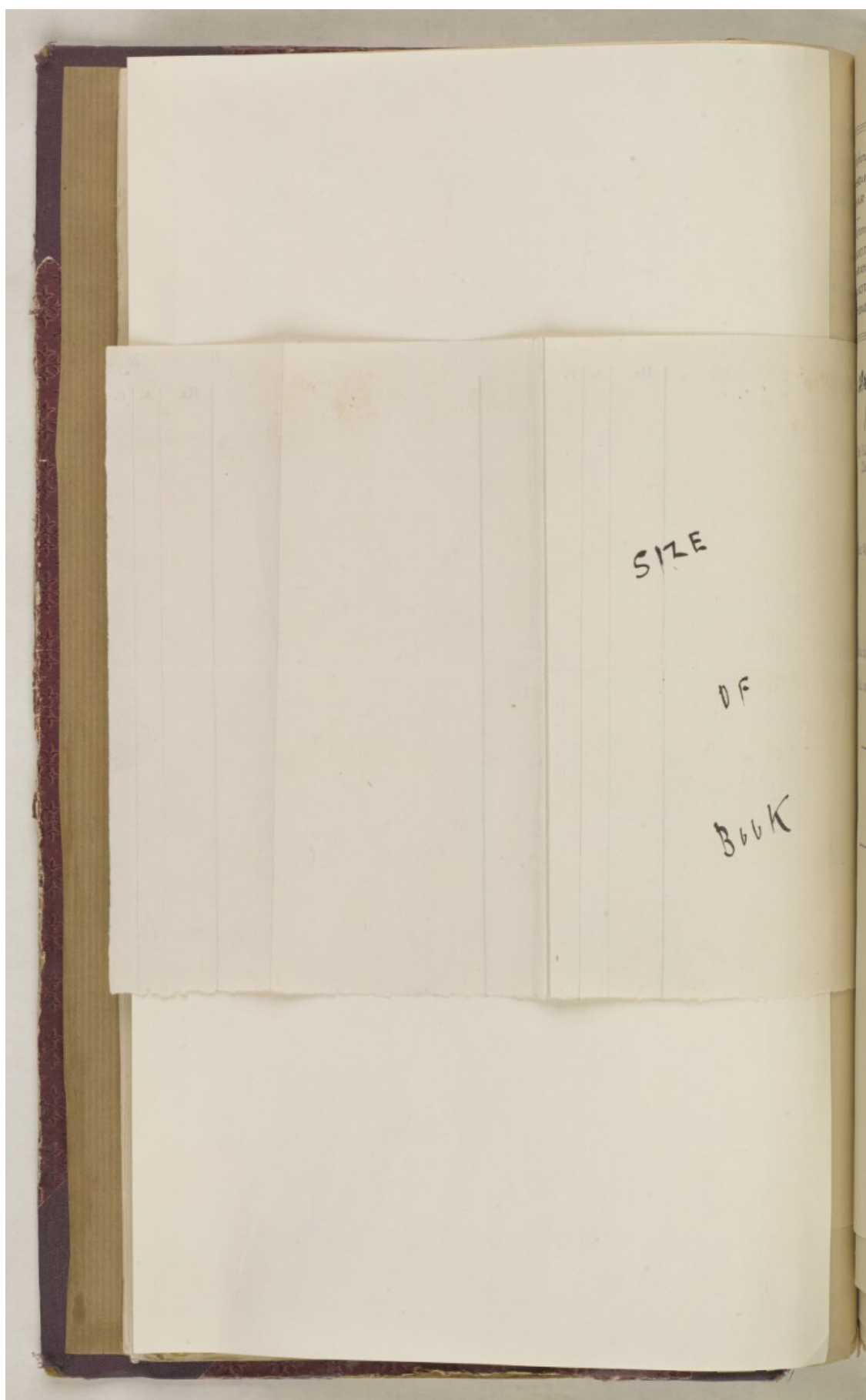


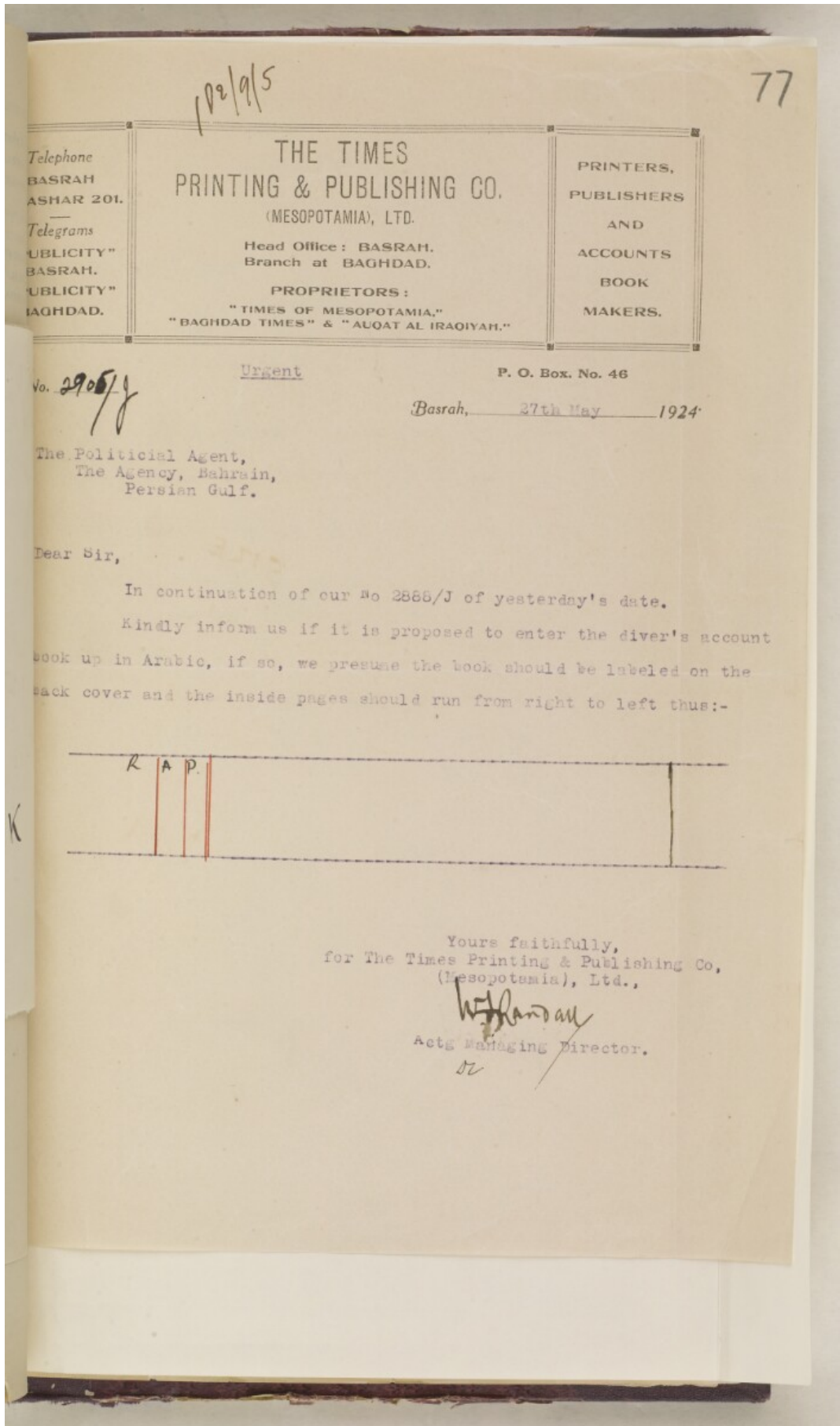
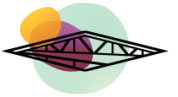


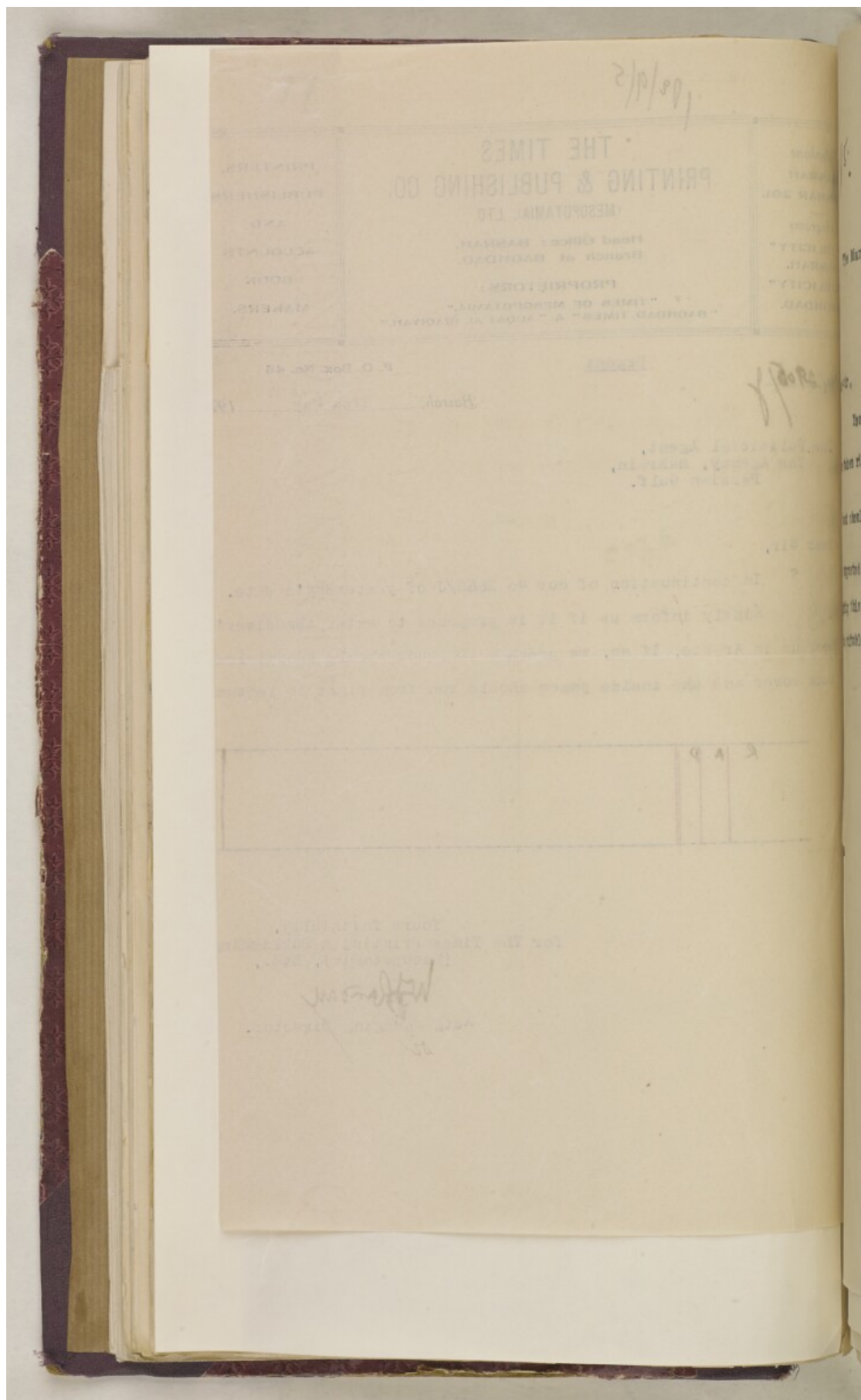


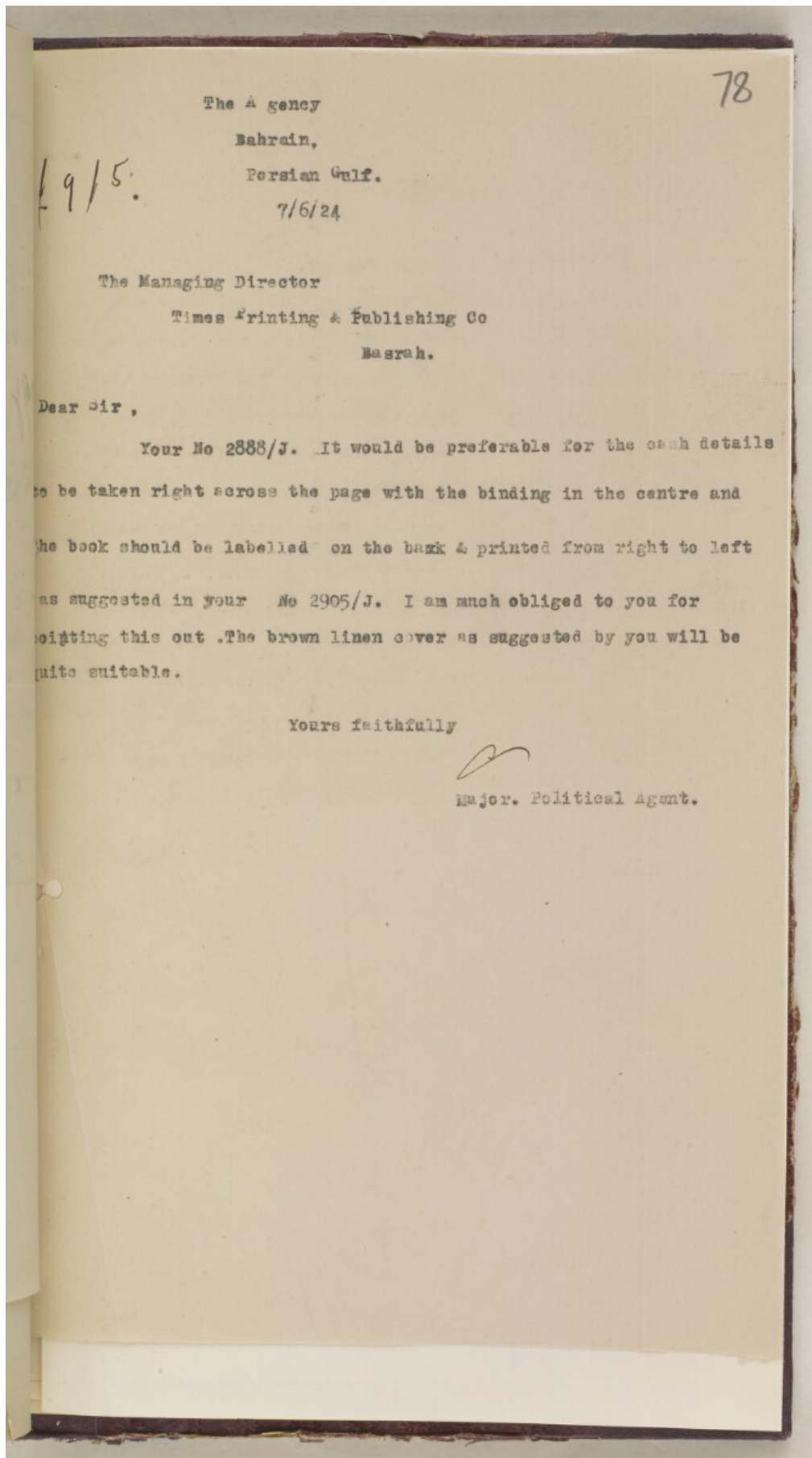


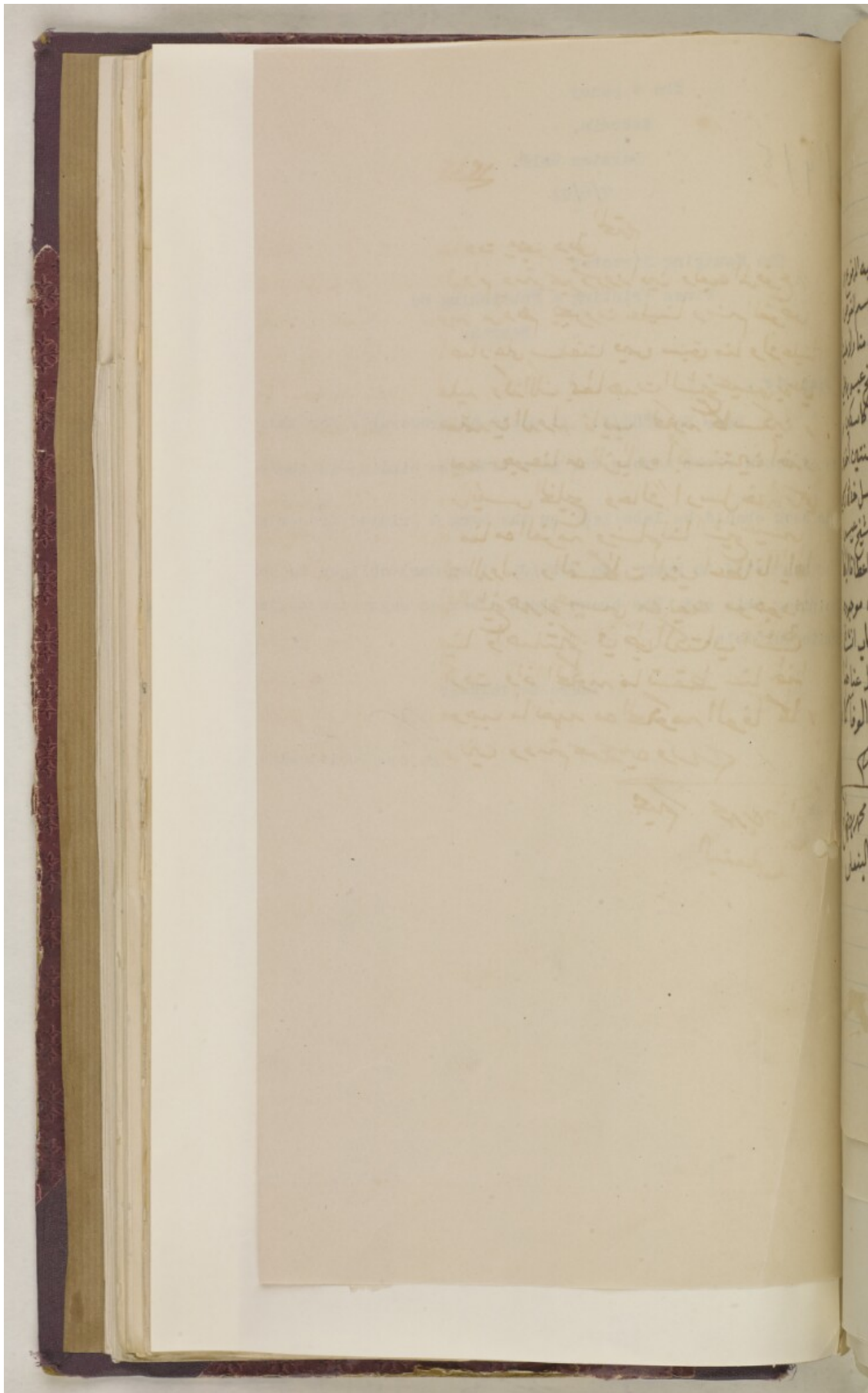








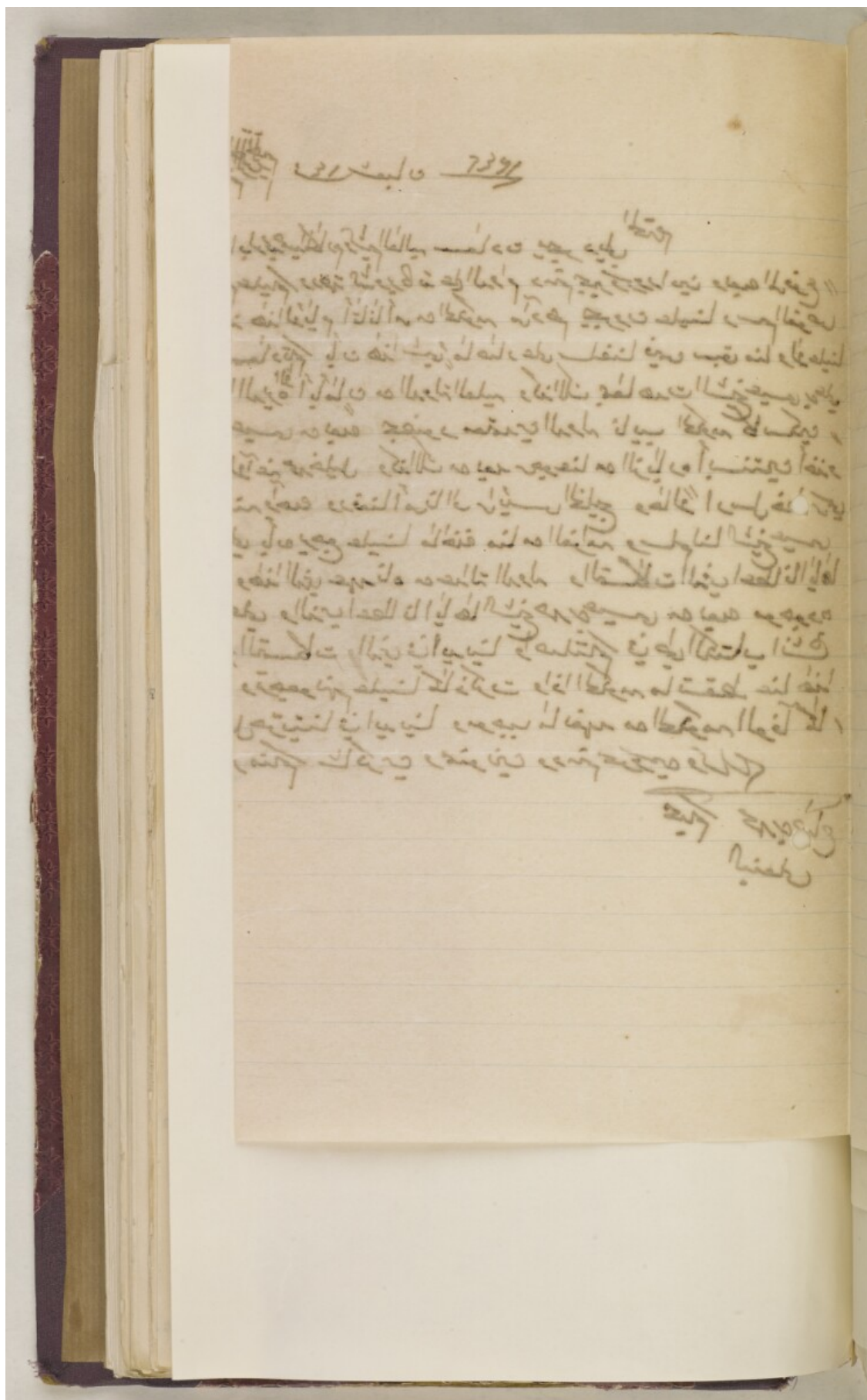


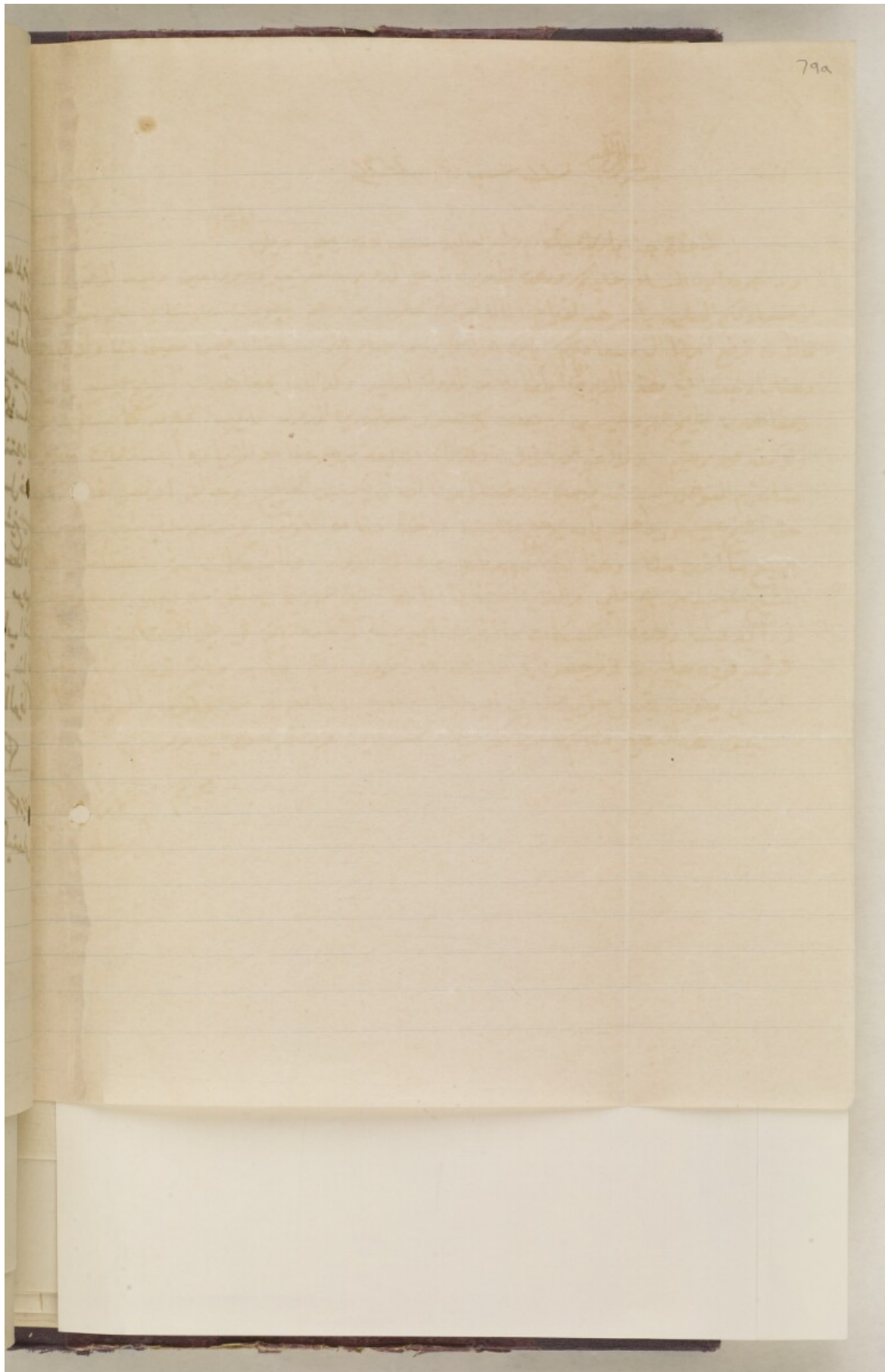


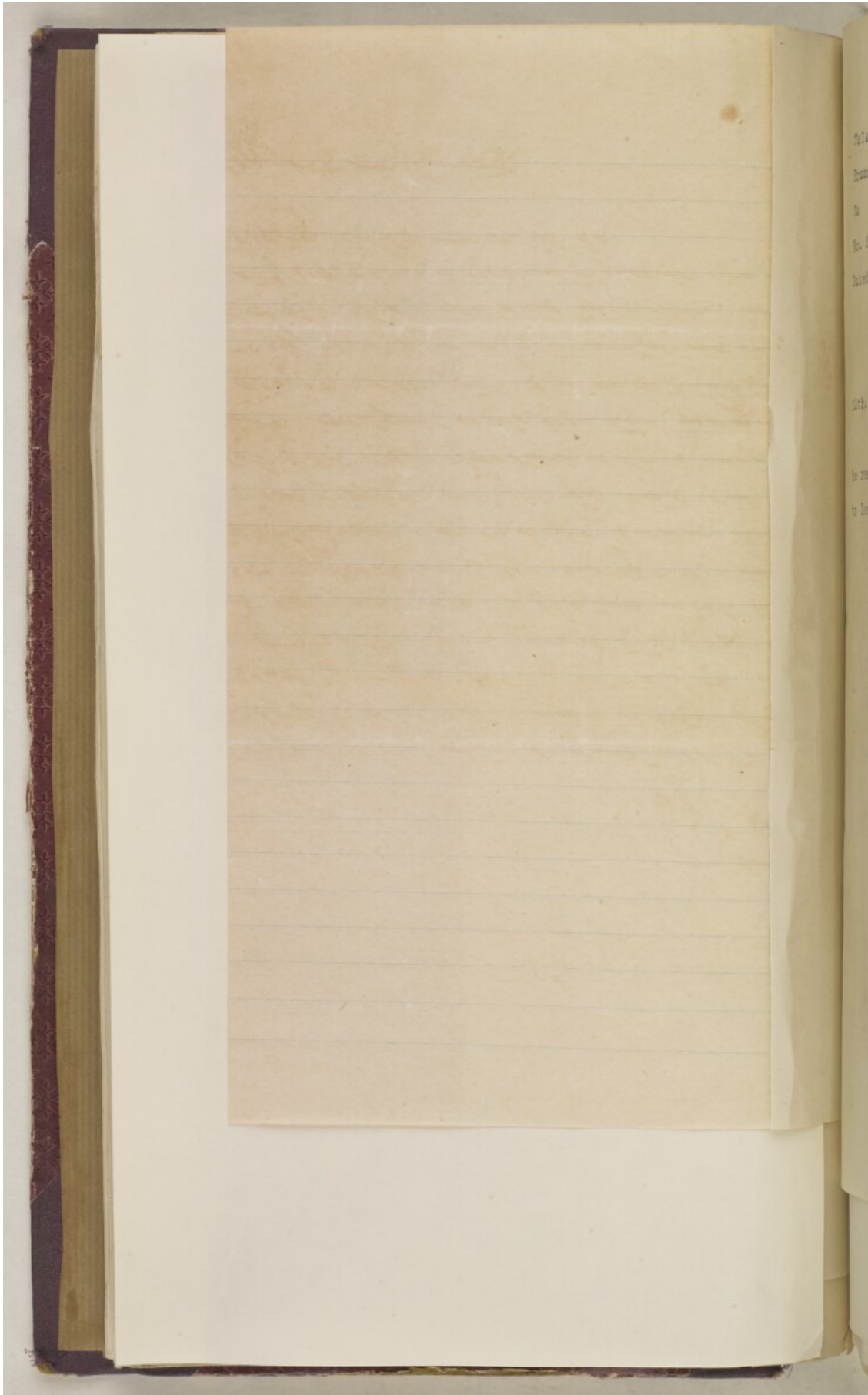
9/5

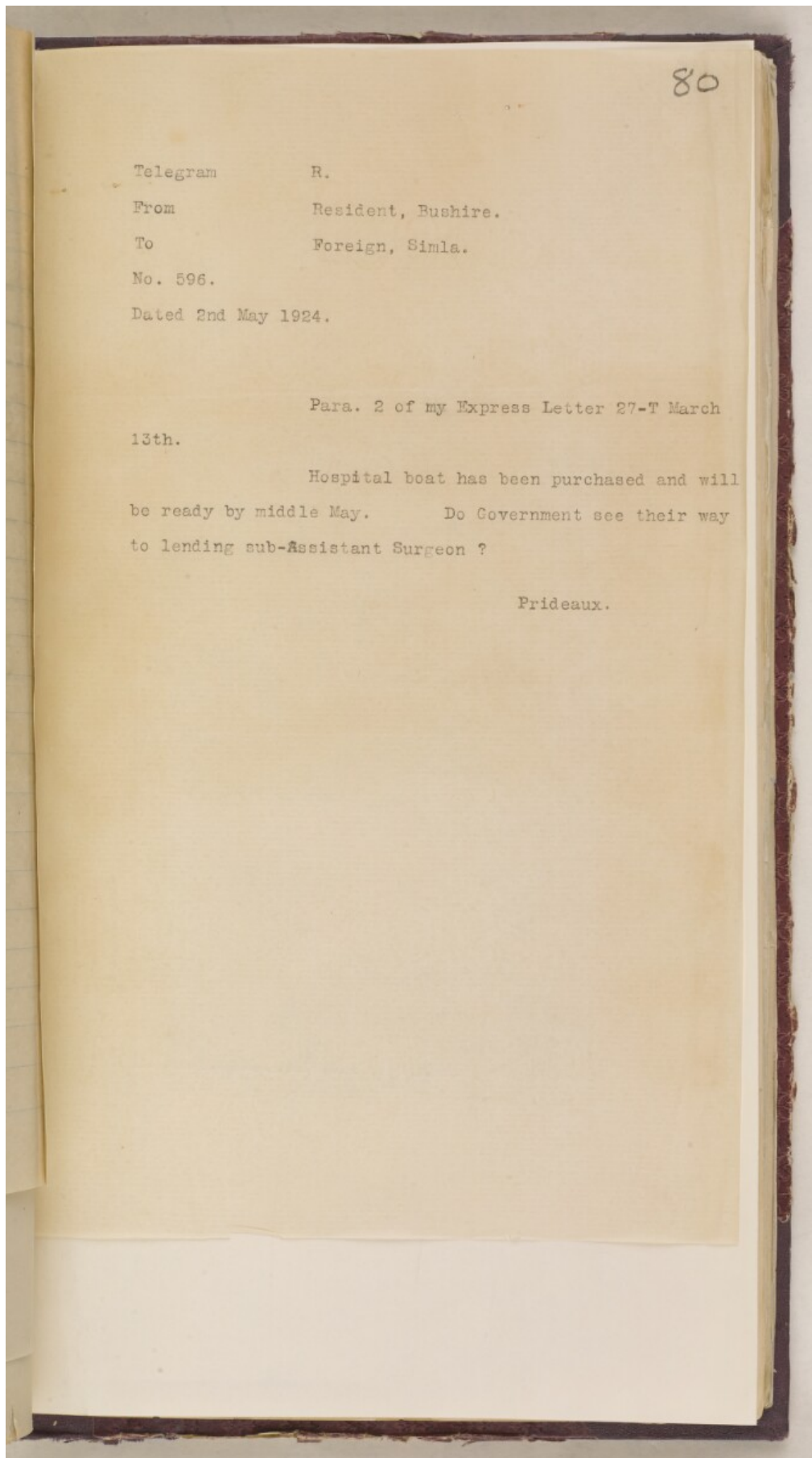
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
في شعبان ١٢٤٢

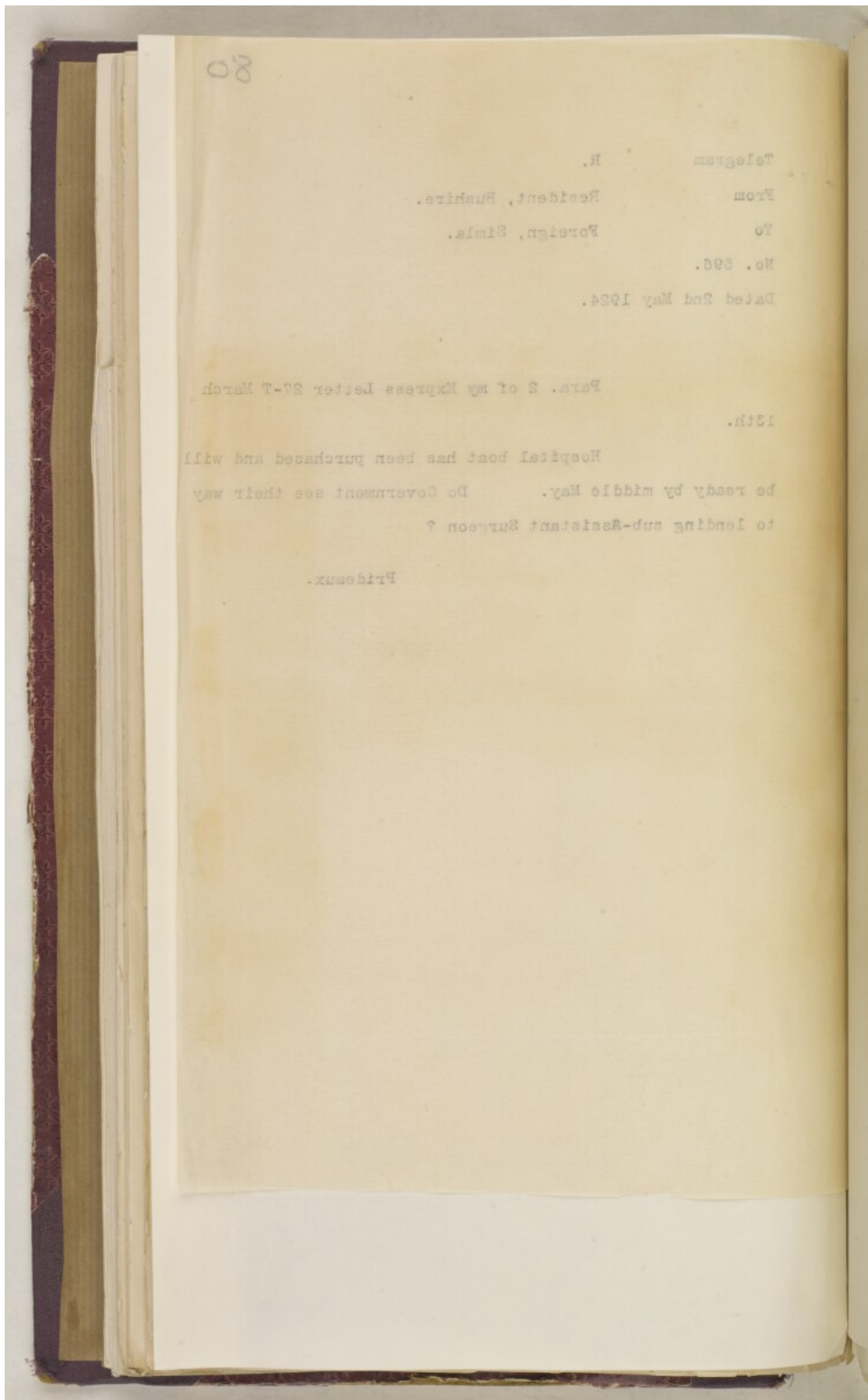
محکم محمد بن علی

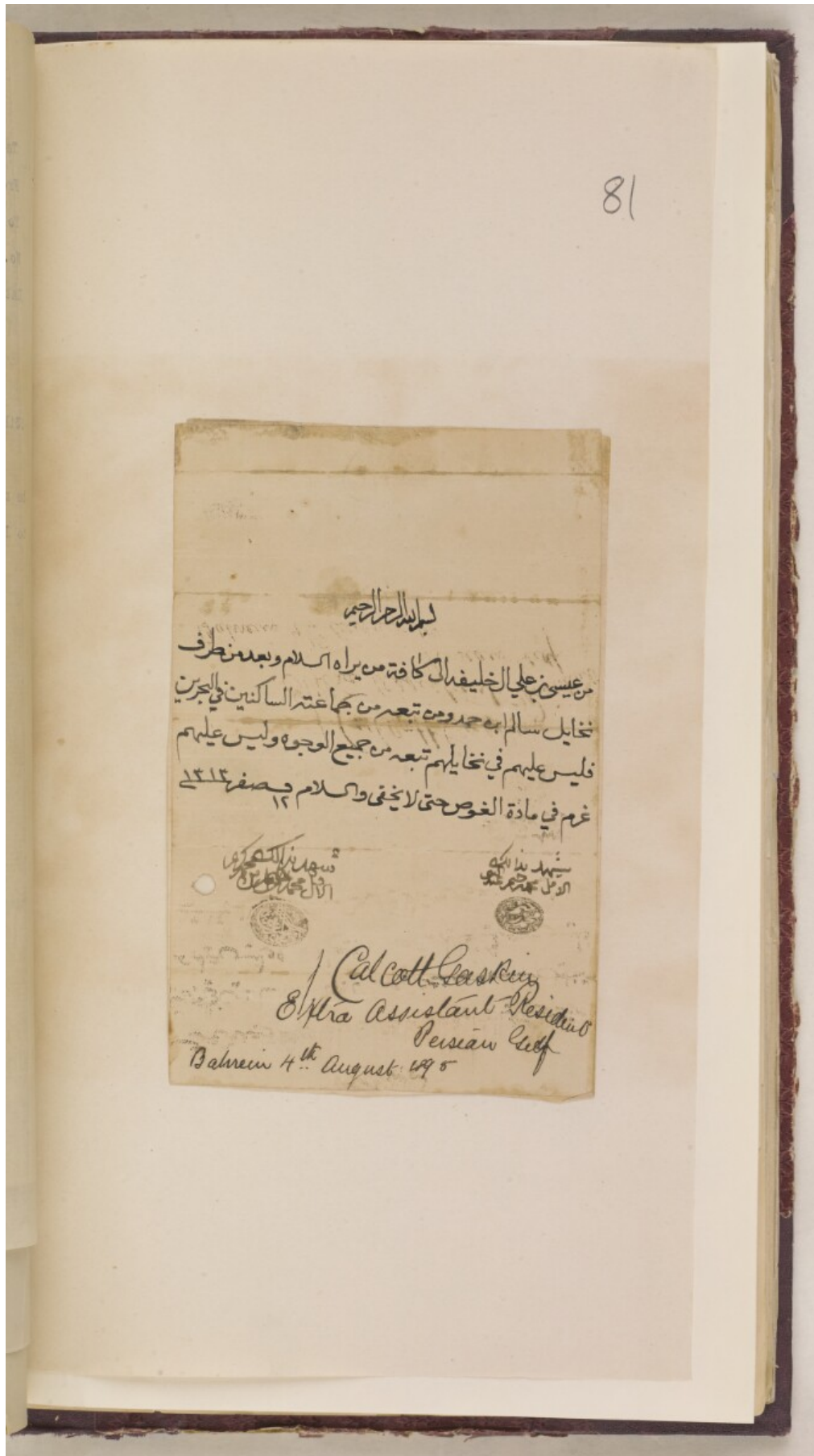


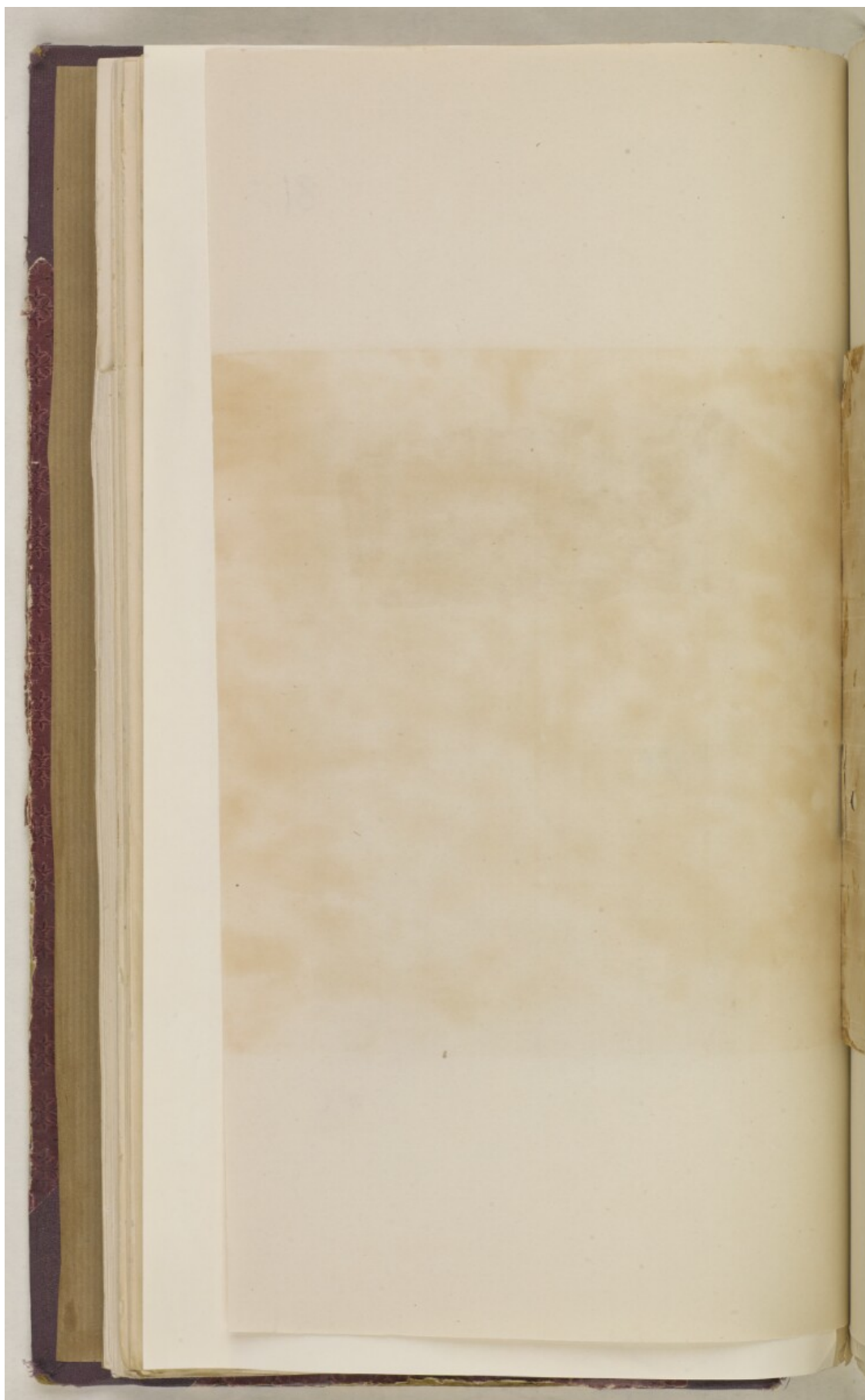


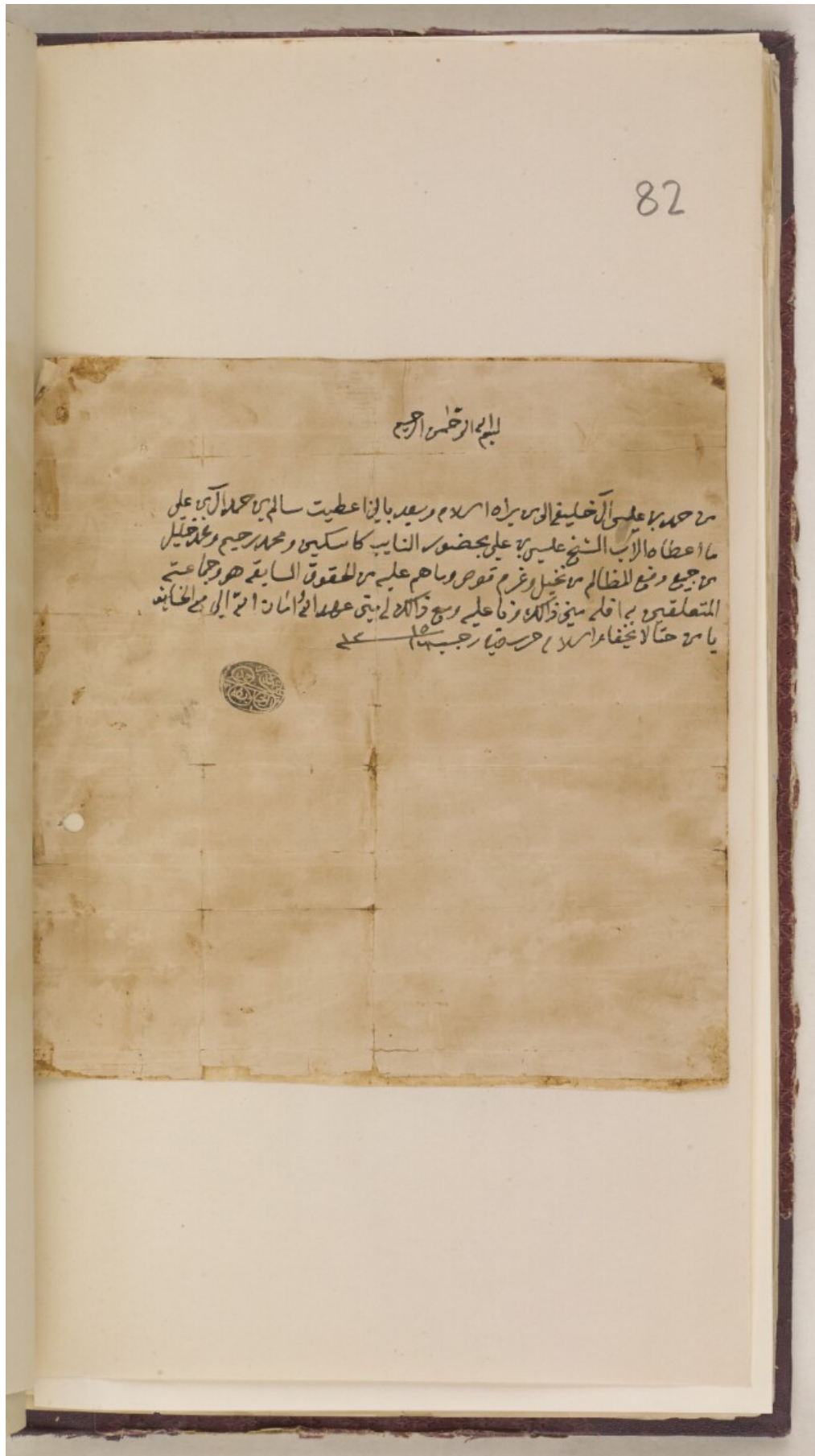


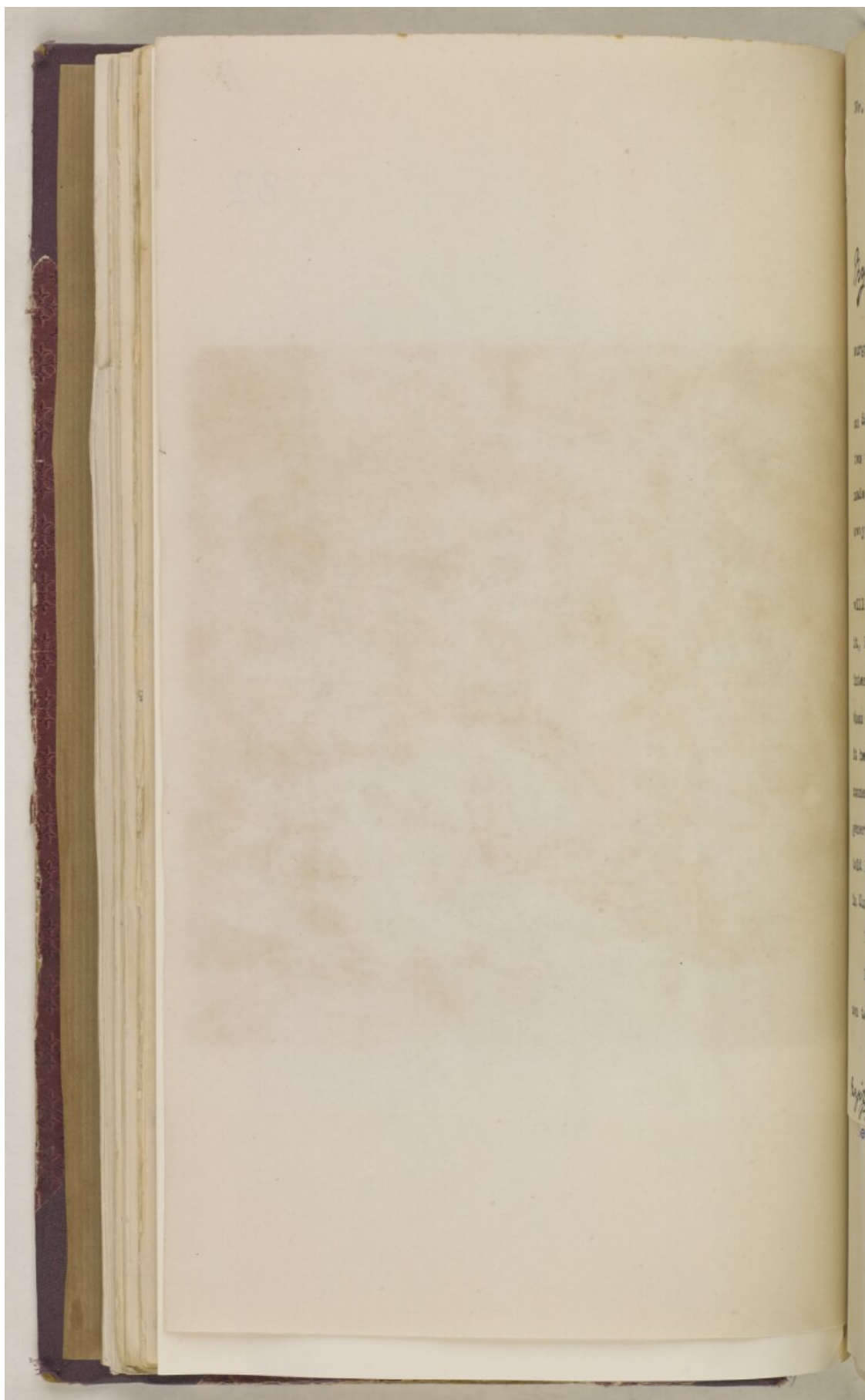


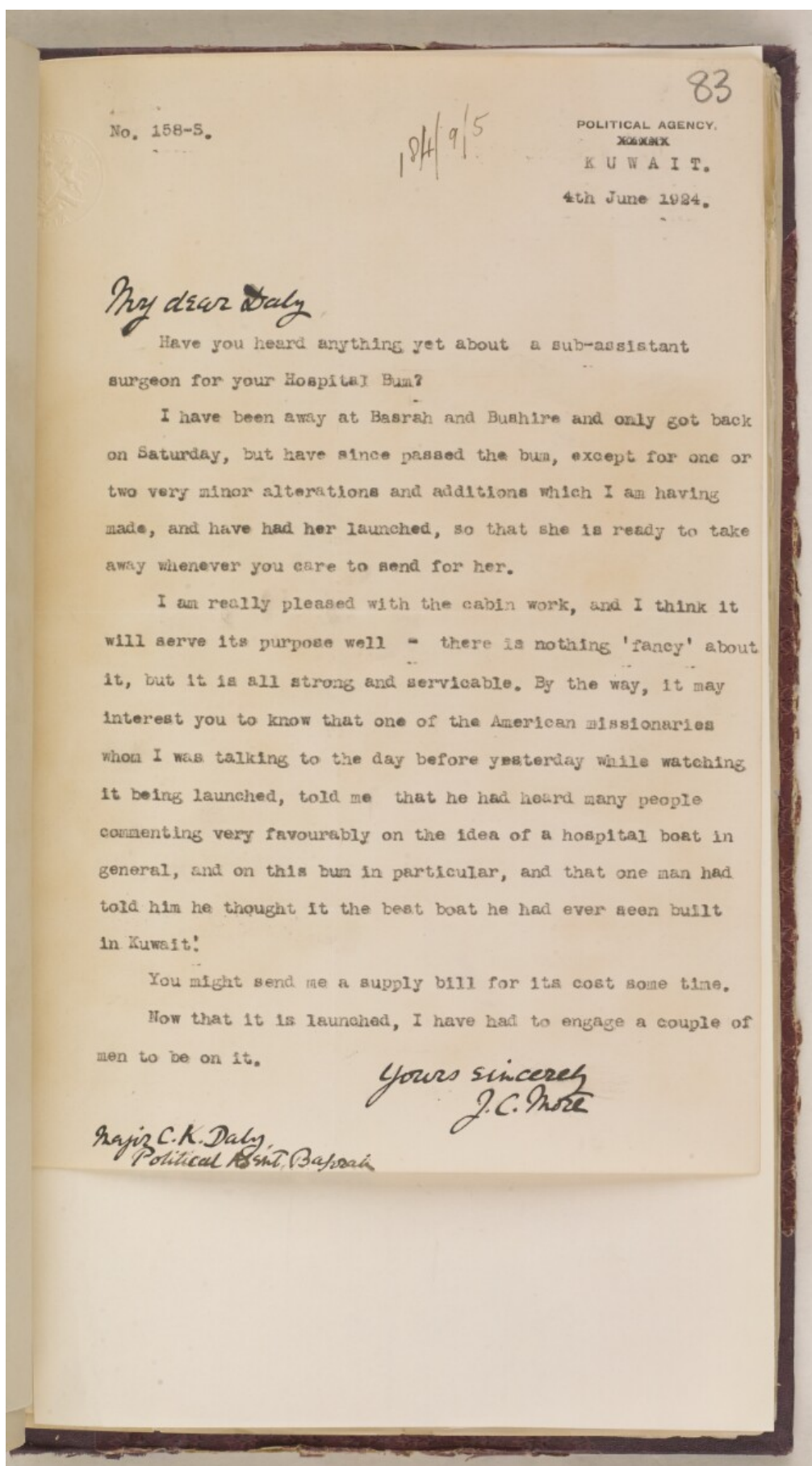












No. 158-S.

184/9/5

83
POLITICAL AGENCY,
KUWAIT.
4th June 1924.

My dear Daly

Have you heard anything yet about a sub-assistant surgeon for your Hospital Bum?

I have been away at Basrah and Bushire and only got back on Saturday, but have since passed the bum, except for one or two very minor alterations and additions which I am having made, and have had her launched, so that she is ready to take away whenever you care to send for her.

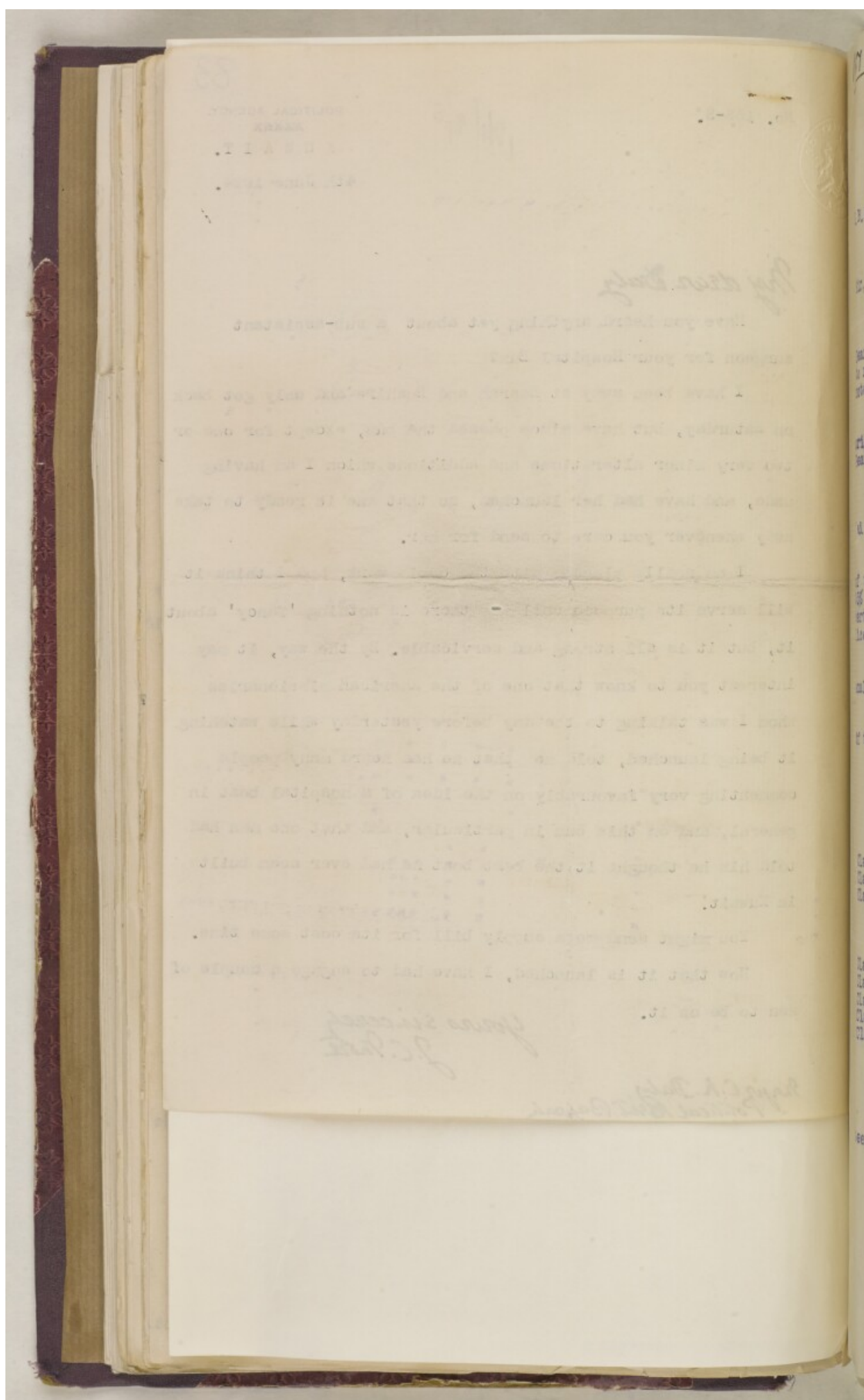
I am really pleased with the cabin work, and I think it will serve its purpose well - there is nothing 'fancy' about it, but it is all strong and servicable. By the way, it may interest you to know that one of the American missionaries whom I was talking to the day before yesterday while watching it being launched, told me that he had heard many people commenting very favourably on the idea of a hospital boat in general, and on this bum in particular, and that one man had told him he thought it the best boat he had ever seen built in Kuwait!

You might send me a supply bill for its cost some time.

Now that it is launched, I have had to engage a couple of men to be on it.

*Yours sincerely
J.C. Moore*

*Hajiz C.K. Daly,
Political Agent, Basrah.*





PAS

84

THE CUSTOM HOUSE,

B a h r e i n.

12th June, 1924.

H.B.M's Political Agent,
B a h r e i n.

Sir,

Pearling Season, A.H. 1342.

With reference to the system, inaugurated this year, of issuing Pearling Licenses to boats registered at this Port, I have the honour to report that, on the registration of these boats, particulars were noted of all boats intended to be ~~issued~~ used for Pearling.

The Government's Order No. 143 of 1st April, which amended the original order No. 134 of 11th March, provided for the licensing of Pearling Boats in three classes, namely:-

- (Class A) Not exceeding five divers.....Rs 75/-
- (Class B) " " fifteen "Rs 100/-
- (Class D) Exceeding fifteen divers.....Rs 200/-.

and ordered that all licenses should be taken out by 26th Ramzan.

A further Order No. 154, of 26th April, 1924, allowed an extension of ten days from 22nd Ramzan for licensing Pearl boats, on payment of 25% of the original fee, as a fine. Summonses were issued against certain registered boats, whose owners had not applied for their licenses.

The last Pearling License was issued on 8th June, 1924; and an analysis of the Register shows the following results:-

Total number of Boats registered for Pearling ... 631.
Of this number, 62 boats were licensed in class A.,
436 " " " " class B., and
114 " " " " class D., and
19 " " " not licensed at all.
631.

The financial results are as follows:-

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------|-----------|----|----------|
| Class A. | 62 boats at Rs | 75/- | | Rs | 4,650/- |
| Class B. | 436 " " " " " " | 100/- | | Rs | 43,600/- |
| Class D. | 114 " " " " " " | 200/- | | Rs | 22,800/- |

Total Revenue: Rs 71,050/-

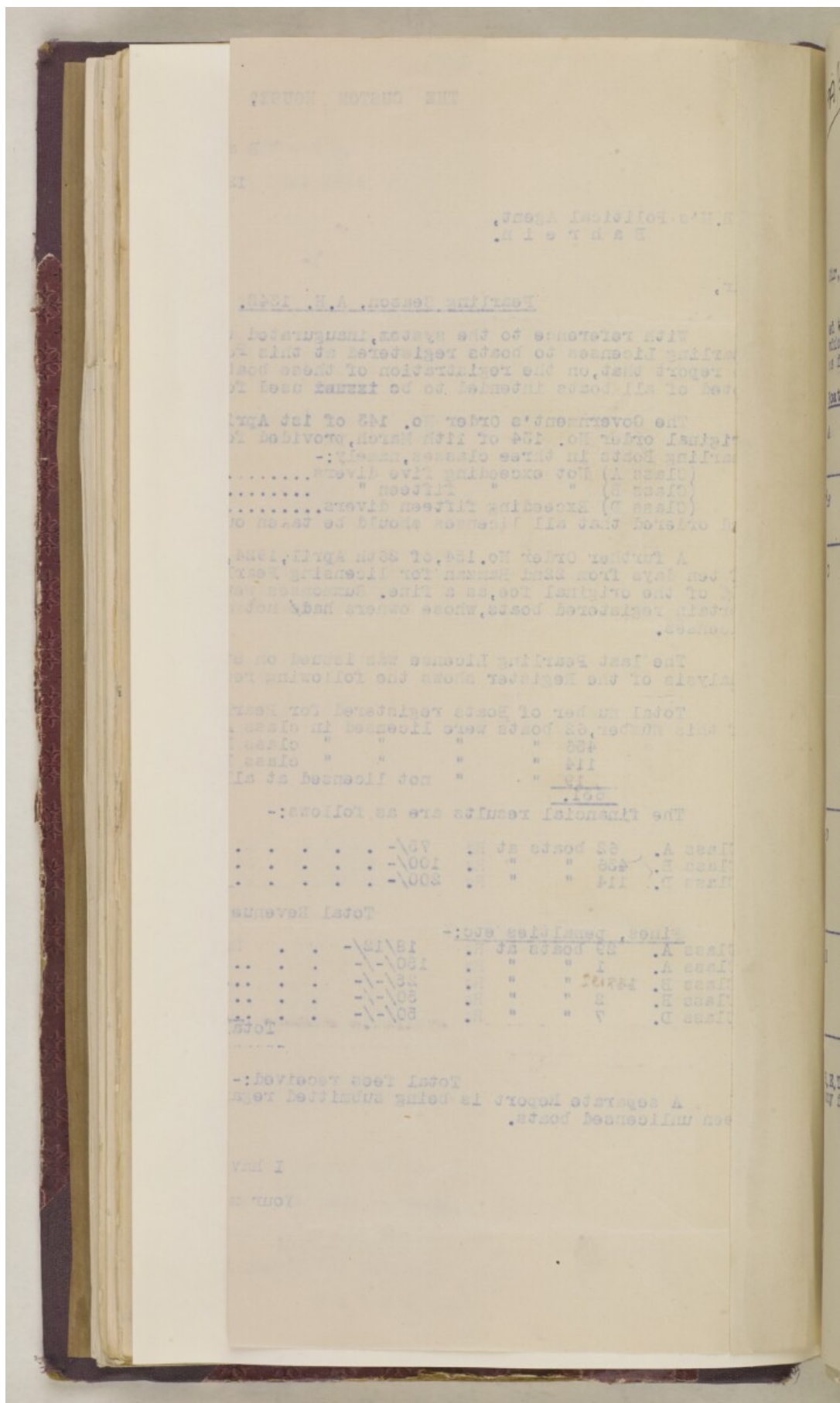
| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|----|---------------------|
| <u>Fines, penalties etc:-</u> | | | | | |
| Class A. | 29 boats at Rs | 18/12/- | | Rs | 543-12-0 |
| Class A. | 1 " " " " " " | 150/-/- | | Rs | 150-0--0 |
| Class B. | 147 152 " " " " " " | 25/-/- | | Rs | 3,800-0--0 |
| Class B. | 2 " " " " " " | 50/-/- | | Rs | 100-0--0 |
| Class D. | 7 " " " " " " | 50/-/- | | Rs | 350-0--0 |
| | | | | | Total Rs 4,943-12-0 |

Total fees received:- Rs 75,993-12-0

A separate Report is being submitted regarding the above nineteen unlicensed boats.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Caeprenier
Director of Customs,
B a h r e i n.





PA/51

THE CUSTOM HOUSE,
B A H R E I N.

85

Dated, 14th June, 1924.

H.B.M'S Political Agent,
B a h r e i n.

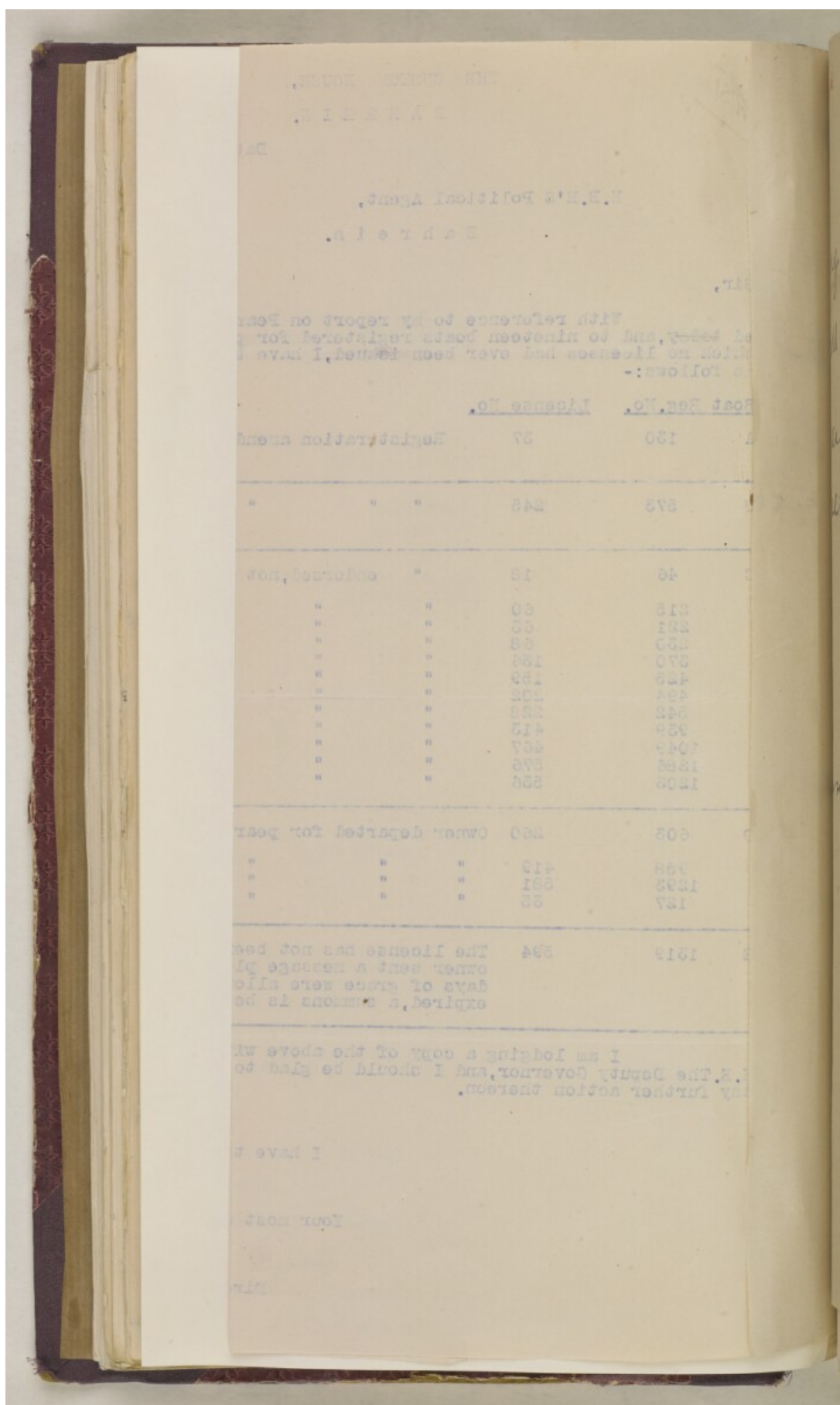
Sir,

With reference to my report on Pearling Licenses submitted today, and to nineteen boats registered for pearling, in respect of which no licenses had ever been issued, I have the honour to report as follows:-

| Boat Reg. No. | License No. | |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| A 130 | 37 | Registration amended for use as Tawash boat only. |
| B 573 | 245 | " " " " Passenger boat only. |
| C 46 | 18 | " endorsed, not to be used for pearling season 1342 |
| 215 | 60 | " " " " |
| 221 | 63 | " " " " |
| 230 | 68 | " " " " |
| 370 | 136 | " " " " |
| 425 | 159 | " " " " |
| 494 | 202 | " " " " |
| 542 | 228 | " " " " |
| 939 | 413 | " " " " |
| 1049 | 467 | " " " " |
| 1286 | 576 | " " " " |
| 1203 | 536 | " " " " |
| D 603 | 260 | Owner departed for pearling, but boat lying here unused. |
| 958 | 419 | " " " " |
| 1293 | 581 | " " " " |
| 127 | 35 | " " " " |
| E 1319 | 594 | The license has not been applied for. The owner sent a message pleading illness, and ten days of grace were allowed, this period having expired, a summons is being issued. |

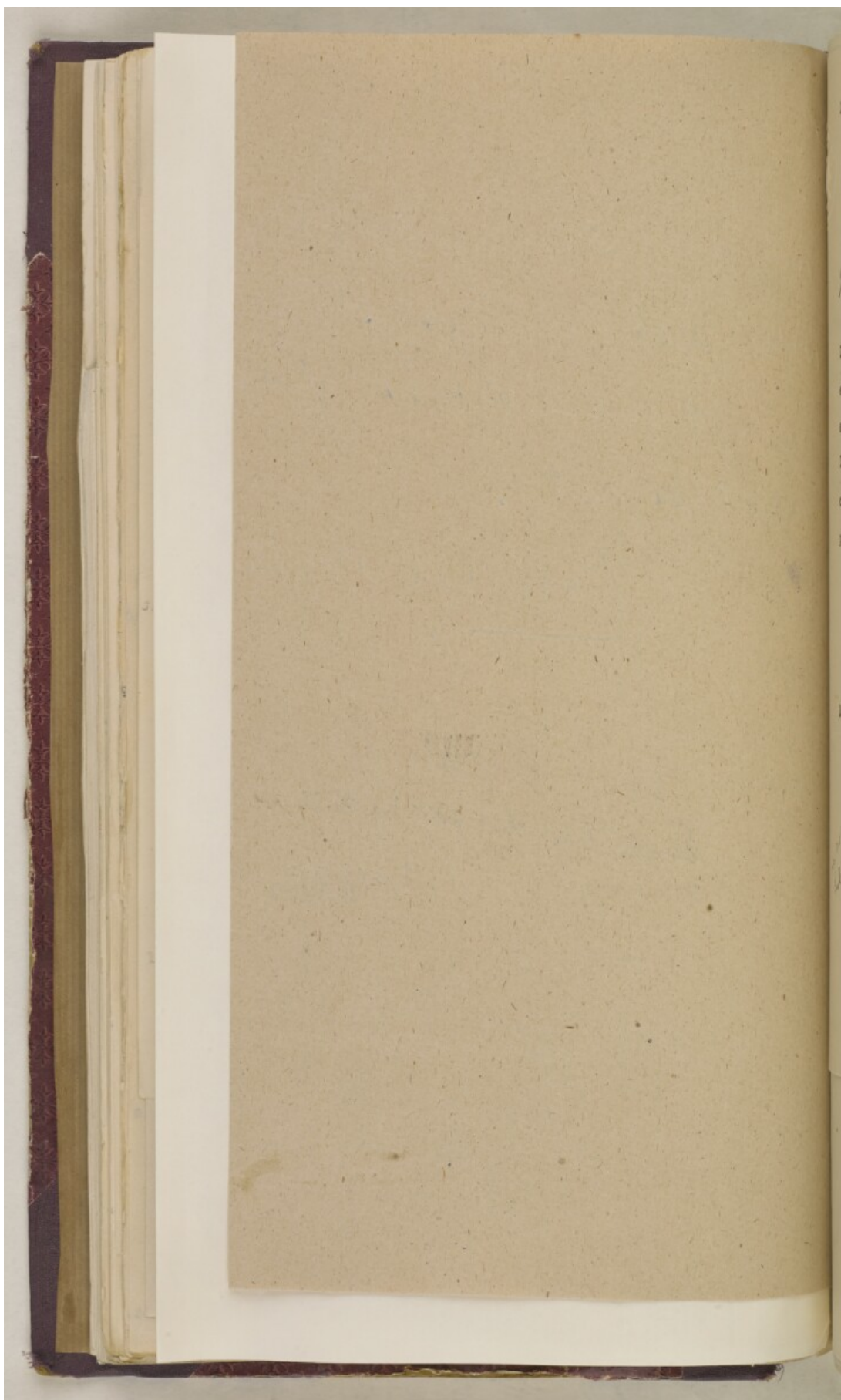
I am lodging a copy of the above with the Secretary to H.E. The Deputy Governor, and I should be glad to hear if I am to take any further action thereon.

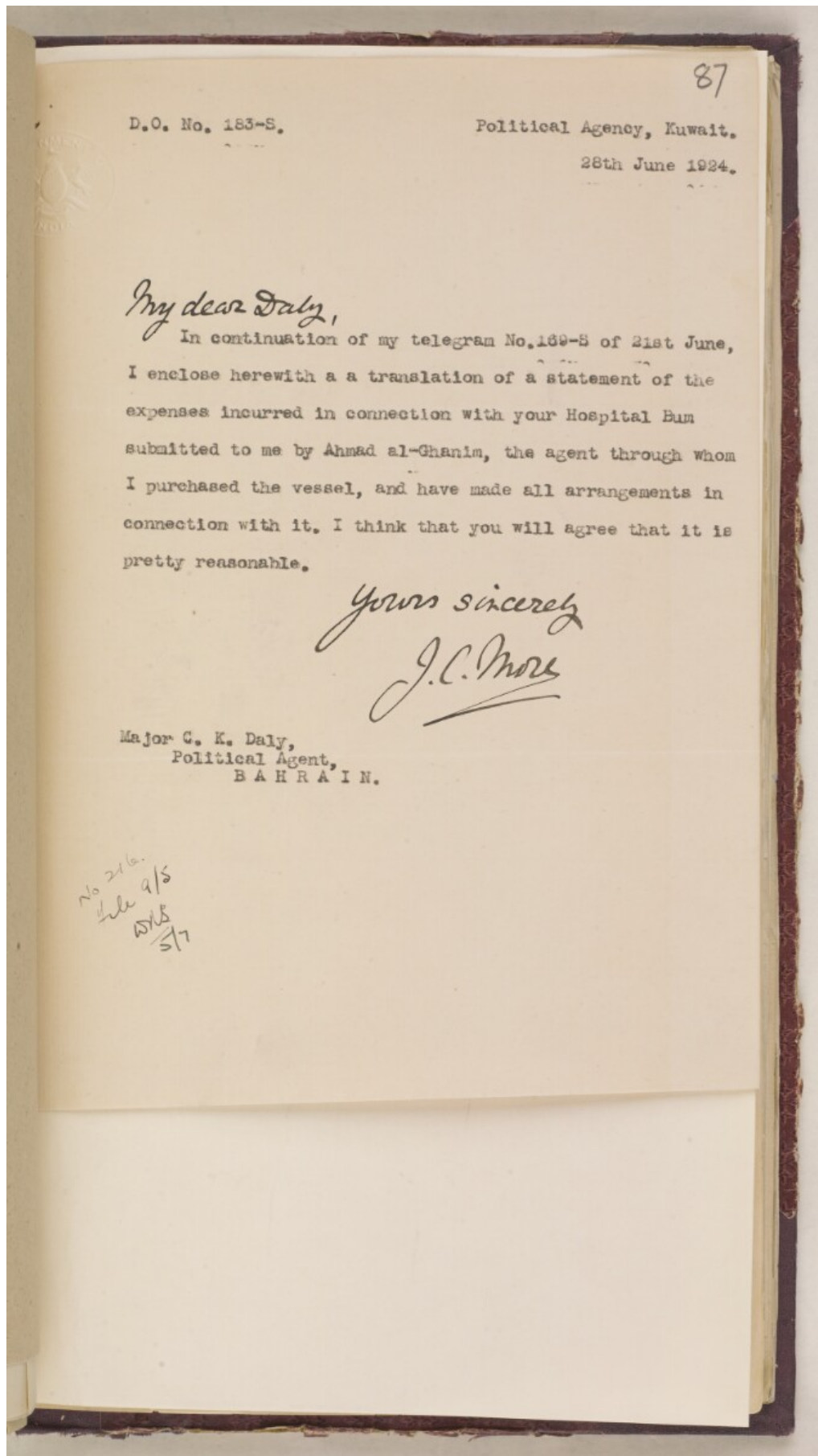
I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Resident
Director of Customs,
B a h r e i n.





86
9/5
my 169/s. Supply
Bill not arrived. Please
send without fail
next mail.
Political 178/s.
increases to purchase of Shanks hospital boat
Sent by draft at Eastern Bank
Bombay. 29/6/20
D2





D.O. No. 183-S.

Political Agency, Kuwait.

28th June 1924.

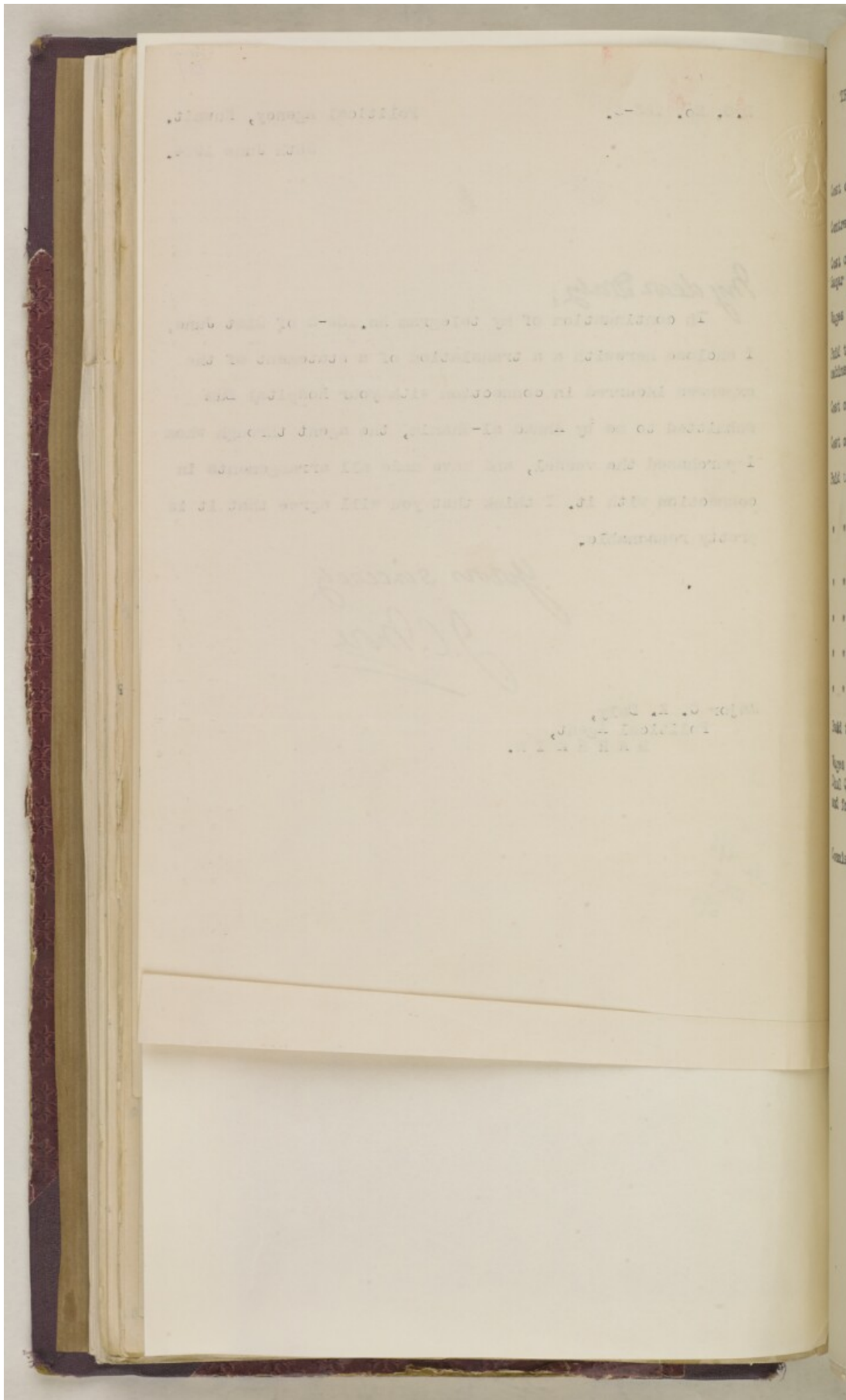
My dear Daly,

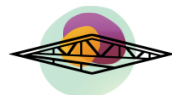
In continuation of my telegram No. 182-S of 21st June,
I enclose herewith a translation of a statement of the
expenses incurred in connection with your Hospital Bum
submitted to me by Ahmad al-Ghanim, the agent through whom
I purchased the vessel, and have made all arrangements in
connection with it. I think that you will agree that it is
pretty reasonable.

Yours sincerely
J.C. Moore

Major C. K. Daly,
Political Agent,
BAHRAIN.

No 216.
File 9/5
15/5
3/7





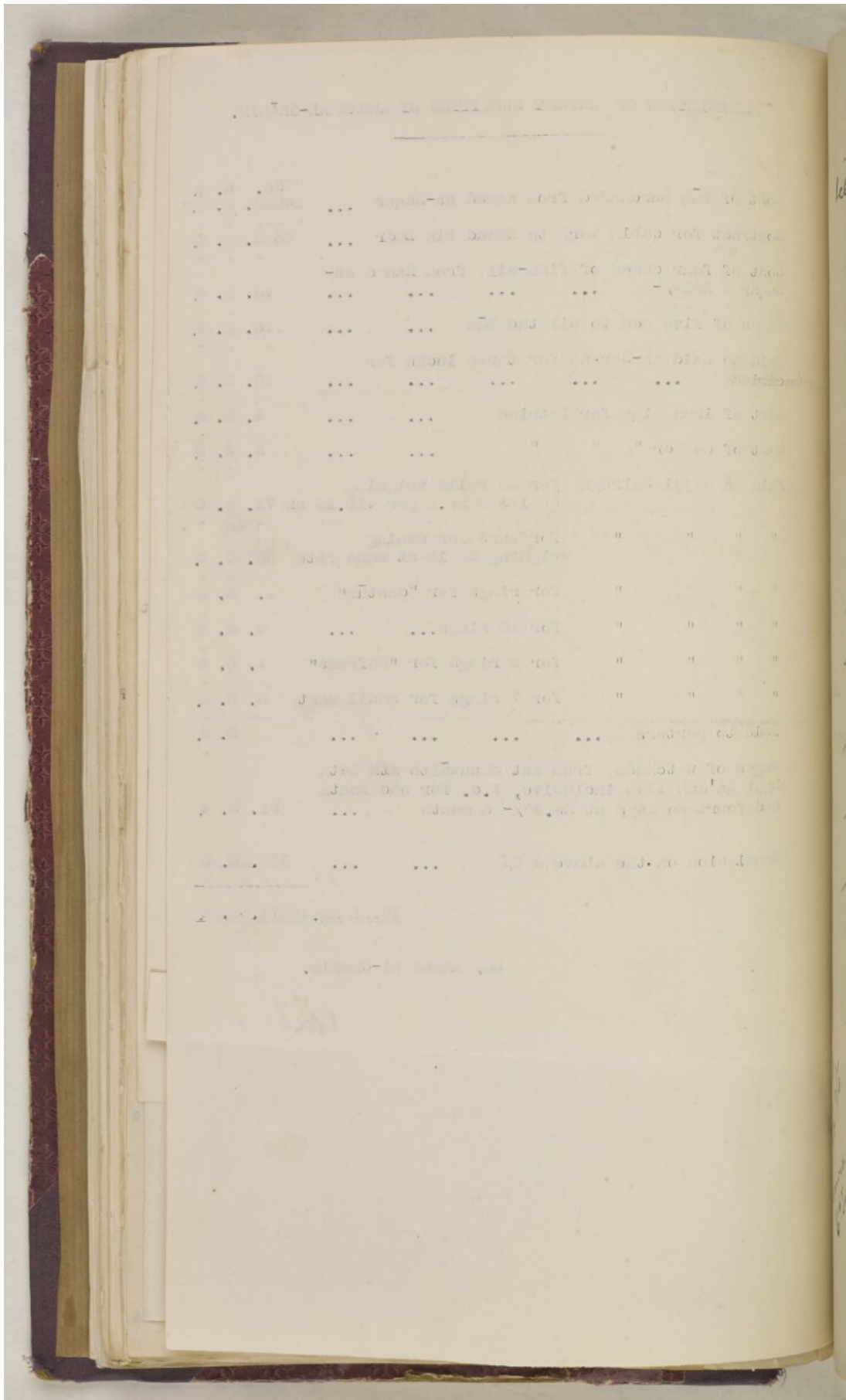
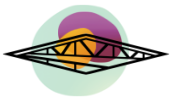
88

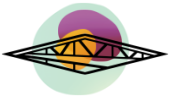
TRANSLATION OF ACCOUNT SUBMITTED BY AHMAD AL-GHĀNIM.

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|--------|-----|----|
| Cost of būm purchased from Hamad as-Saqar ... | 14000. | 0. | 0. |
| Contract for cabin work to Hamud bin Badr ... | 2300. | 0. | 0. |
| Cost of four cases of fish-oil from Hamad as-Saqar @ Rs12/- ... | 48. | 0. | 0. |
| Wages of five men to oil the būm ... | 16. | 0. | 0. |
| Paid to Zaid as-Sarhan for three locks for cabins ... | 18. | 0. | 0. |
| Cost of iron pipe for latrine ... | 4. | 0. | 0. |
| Cost of copper " " " ... | 5. | 8. | 0. |
| Paid to Hajji Chiragh for 12 rails weighing 358 lbs @ Rs.2 per 4lb.10 oz | 71. | 0. | 0. |
| " " " " for bars for awning weighing 46 lb at same rate | 20. | 0. | 0. |
| " " " " for rings for "dastūr" | 1. | 8. | 0. |
| " " " " for 16 rings... | 4. | 0. | 0. |
| " " " " for 6 rings for "dafrahs" | 1. | 8. | 0. |
| " " " " for 7 rings for small mast | 2. | 8. | 0. |
| Paid to porters ... | 8. | 0. | 0. |
| Wages of watchman from 1st Shawwāl to 14th 14th Dhul Qa'dah 1342 inclusive, i.e. for one month and fourteen days at Rs.35/- a month | 51. | 5. | 4. |
| Commission on the above @ 2% ... | 330. | 14. | 0. |
| <hr/> | | | |
| TOTAL Rs.16874.11. 4 | | | |

Sd/ Ahmad al-Ghanim.

Gen.





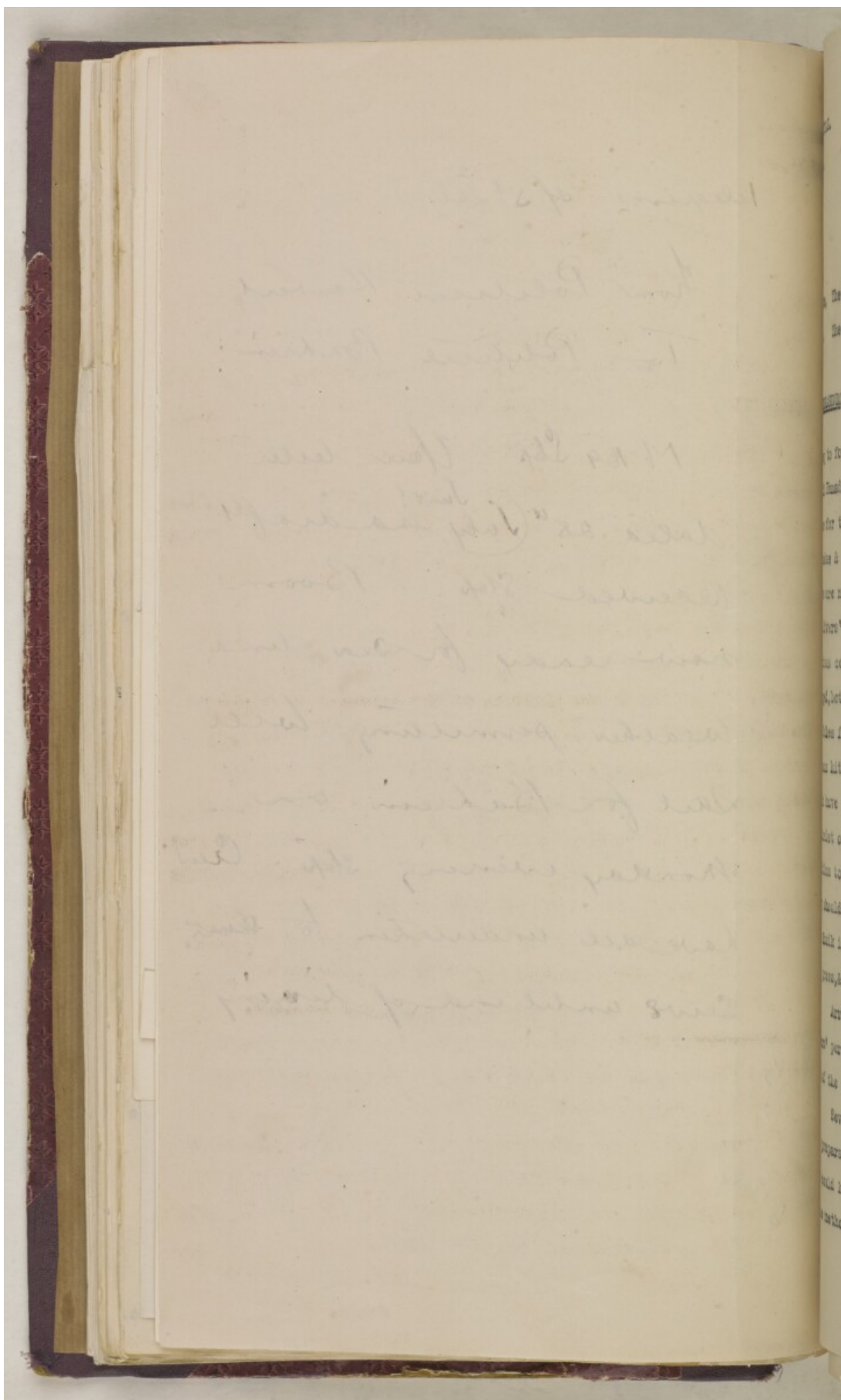
89

Telegram of 5th July

From Political Agent
To Political Bahrein.

M. 169. Sbp. Your letter
dated 28th ^{June?} (July) and draft
received Sbp. Boom
now ready for sea and
weather permitting will
sail for Bahrein on
Monday evening Sbp. Crew
have all undertaken to ~~serve~~
serve until end of diving

218
J. 9/5
Received
6th July





CONFIDENTIAL.

2/9/5.

The Political Agency,

Bahrain.

Persian Gulf.

12/7/24;

8/c 9/5 90

From, The Political Agent, Bahrain.

To. The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

MEMORANDUM.

REFORMS IN DIVING.

I beg to forward for your information a translation of a proclamation Shaik Hamad Bin Easa, the Deputy Ruler of Bahrain, proposes to shortly issue for the better regulation of the financial relations between Nakhudas & their crews.

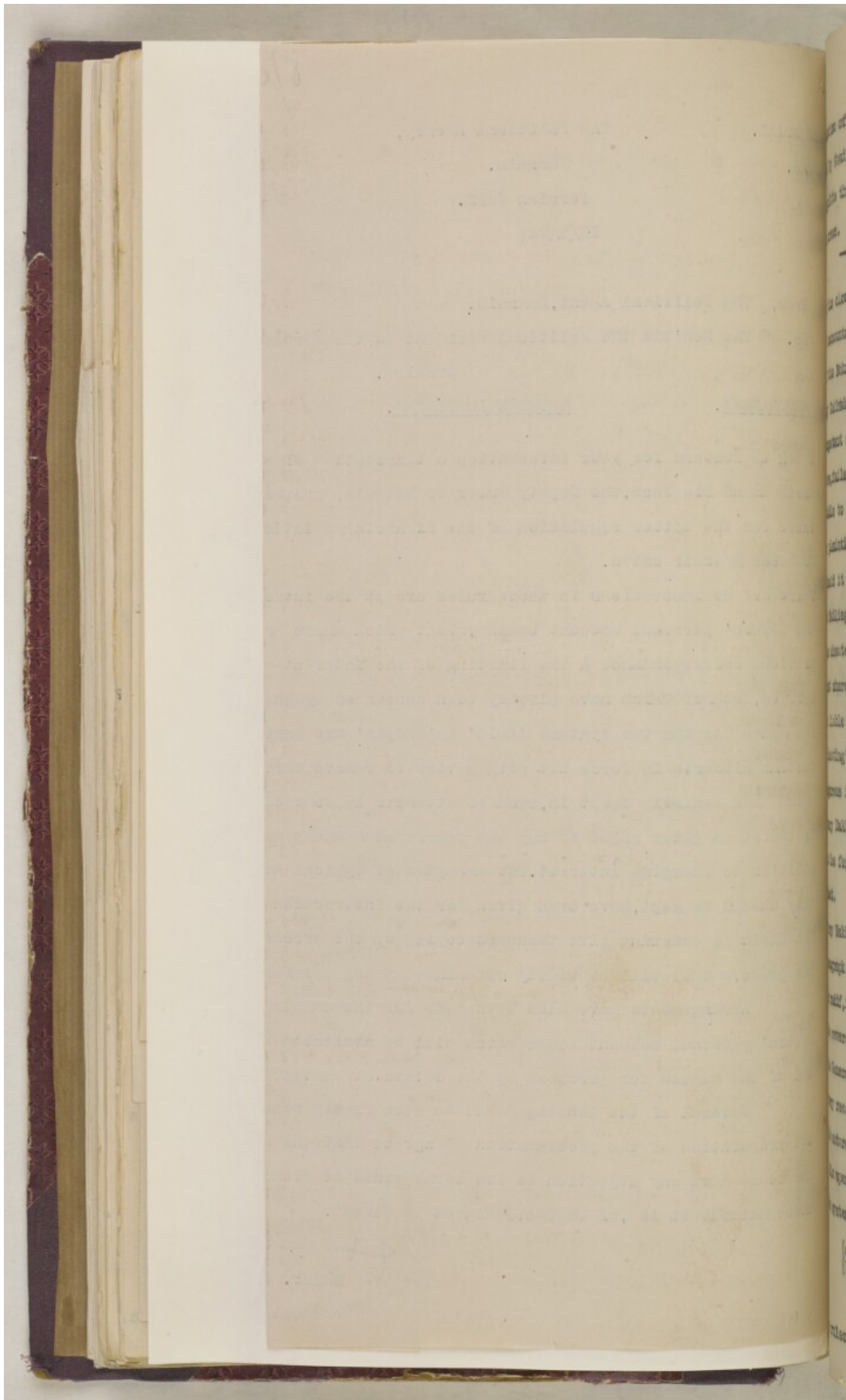
There are no innovations in these rules except the introduction of the divers' personal account books, about which there has been previous correspondence & the limiting of the interest which may be charged, both of which have already been announced by the Shaik. The Rules for the two systems 'Amil' & 'Madyan' are based on the customs hitherto in force but with a view to remove certain abuses which have recently crept in, such as attempts by some of the Nakhudas to insist on prior right to buy the pearls at a cheap rate in ~~addition~~ addition to charging interest. Two examples of typical accounts, as they should be kept, have been given for the instruction of Nakhudas. The Shaik is ordering five thousand copies of the proclamation from the press, & they will be widely circulated among the Nakhudas.

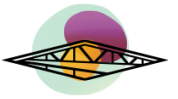
Arrangements have also been made for the supply of 26,000 Divers' personal account books which will be available before the end of the season for purchase by the divers at cost price.

Several of the leading Nakhudas were freely consulted during the preparation of the proclamation & agreed that the only persons who could have any objection to its terms would be dishonest Nakhudas whose methods it is, of course, designed to defeat.

Major.

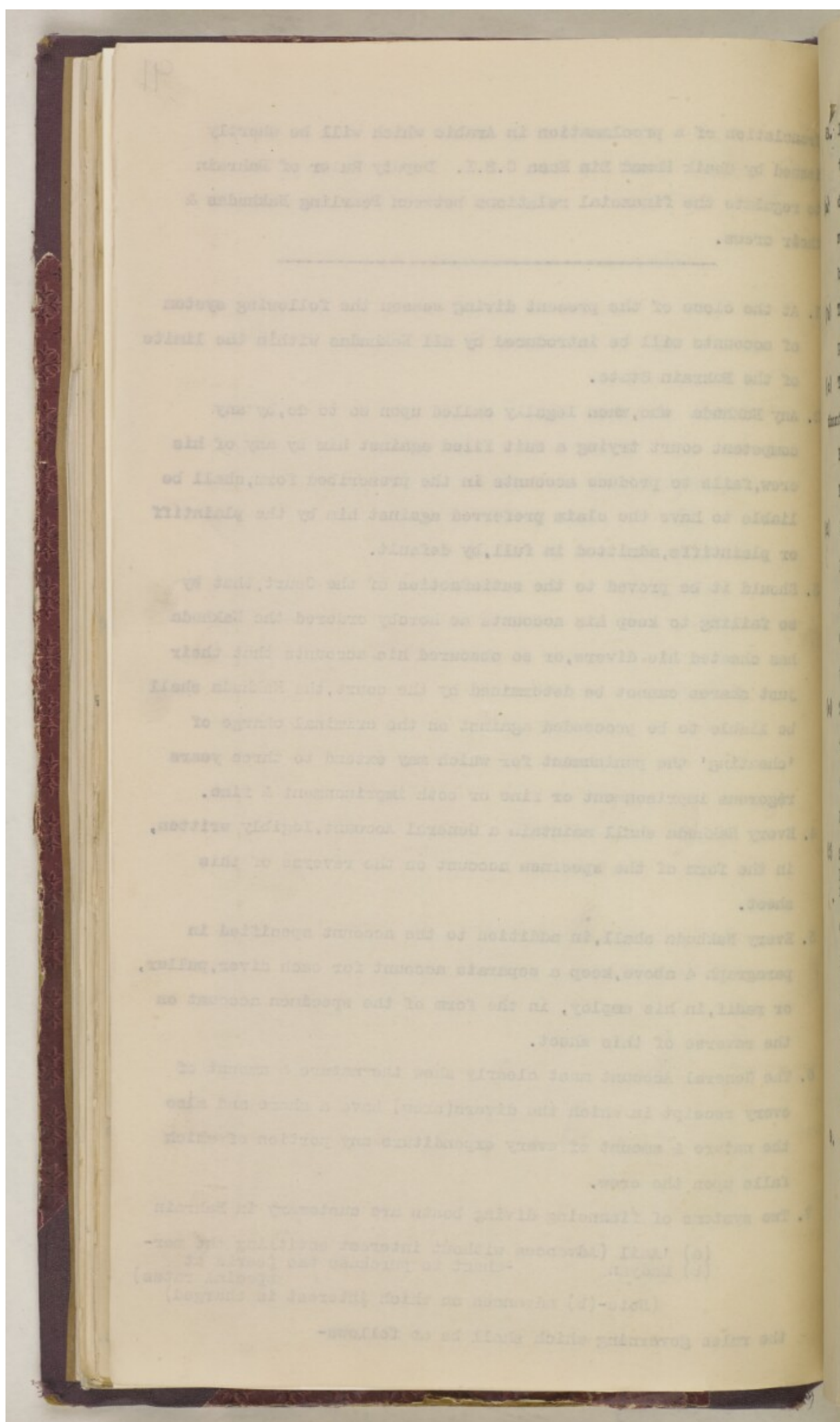
Political Agent.





91
translation of a proclamation in Arabic which will be shortly
issued by Shaik Hamad Bin Easa C.S.I. Deputy Ruler of Bahrain
to regulate the financial relations between Pearling Makhduds &
their crews.

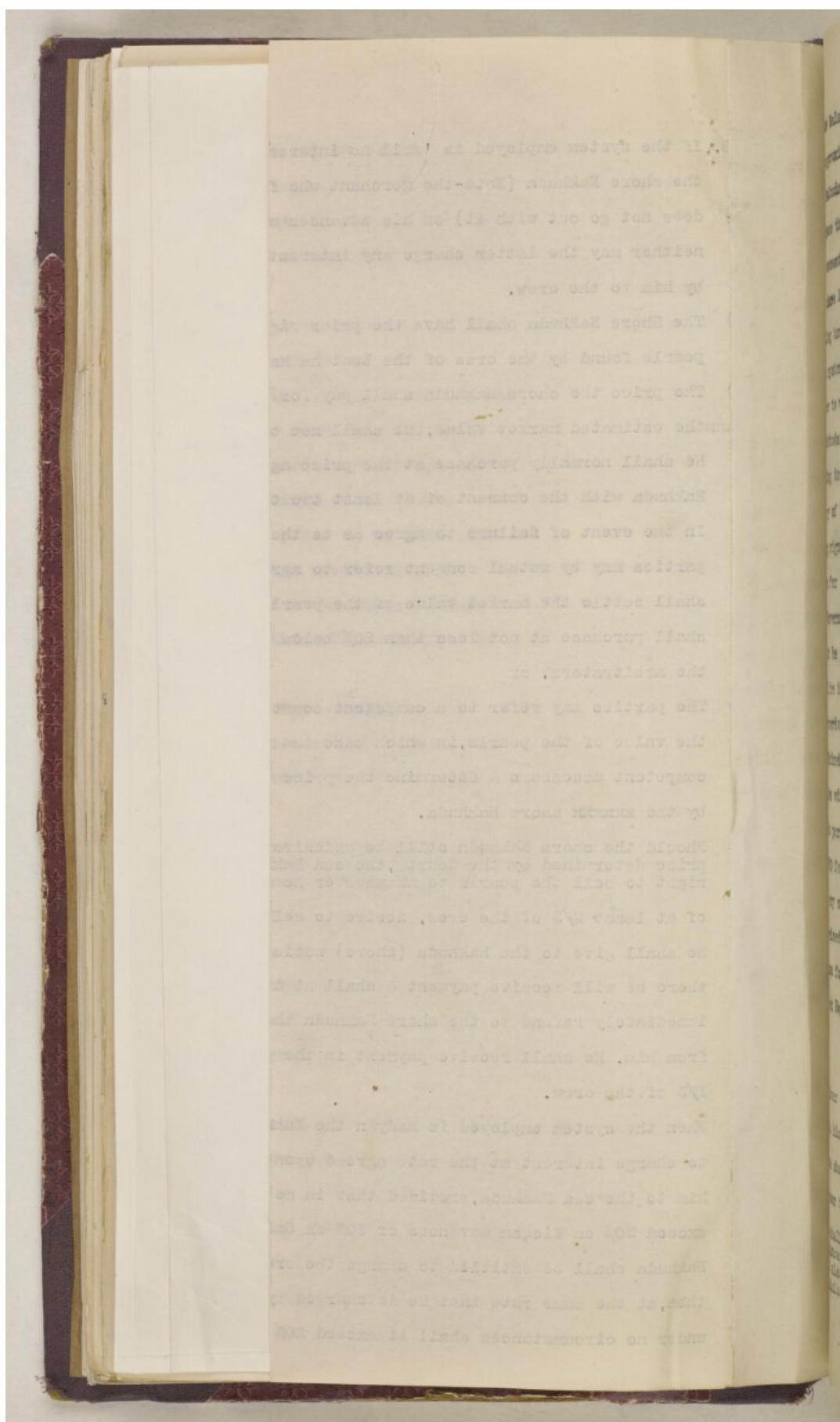
1. At the close of the present diving season the following system
of accounts will be introduced by all Makhduds within the limits
of the Bahrain State.
2. Any Makhdud who, when legally called upon so to do, by any
competent court trying a suit filed against him by any of his
crew, fails to produce accounts in the prescribed form, shall be
liable to have the claim preferred against him by the plaintiff
or plaintiffs, admitted in full, by default.
3. Should it be proved to the satisfaction of the Court, that by
so failing to keep his accounts as hereby ordered the Makhdud
has cheated his divers, or so obscured his accounts that their
just shares cannot be determined by the court, the Makhdud shall
be liable to be proceeded against on the criminal charge of
'cheating' the punishment for which may extend to three years
rigorous imprisonment or fine or both imprisonment & fine.
4. Every Makhdud shall maintain a General Account, legibly written,
in the form of the specimen account on the reverse of this
sheet.
5. Every Makhdud shall, in addition to the account specified in
paragraph 4 above, keep a separate account for each diver, puller,
or radif, in his employ, in the form of the specimen account on
the reverse of this sheet.
6. The General Account must clearly show the nature & amount of
every receipt in which the divers (crew) have a share and also
the nature & amount of every expenditure any portion of which
falls upon the crew.
7. Two systems of financing diving boats are customary in Bahrain
 - (a) 'Amil (Advances without interest entitling the mer-
 - (b) Madyan -chant to purchase the pearls at
special rates)(Note-(b) advances on which interest is charged)
the rules governing which shall be as follows-





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8. If the system employed is 'Amil no interest may be charged by the shore Nakhuda (Note-the merchant who finances the boat but does not go out with it) on his advances made to the Sea Nakhuda, neither may the latter charge any interest on the advances made by him to the crew.
- (a) The Shore Nakhuda shall have the prior right to purchase all the pearls found by the crew of the boat he has financed.
- (b) The price the shore Nakhuda shall pay for the pearls shall be less than the estimated market value, but shall not be more than 20% less. He shall normally purchase at the price agreed upon with the sea Nakhuda with the consent of at least two thirds of the crew.
- (c) In the event of failure to agree as to the price to be paid, the parties may by mutual consent refer to agreed arbitrators who shall settle the market value of the pearls & the shore Nakhuda shall purchase at not less than 20% below the price estimated by the arbitrators, or
- (d) The parties may refer to a competent court for decision as to the value of the pearls, in which case the court shall appoint competent assessors & determine the price which should be paid by the shore Nakhuda.
- (e) Should the shore Nakhuda still be undesirous of purchasing at the price determined by the Court, the sea Nakhuda shall have the right to sell the pearls to whomsoever he may, with the consent of at least 2/3 of the crew, desire to sell them, provided that he shall give to the Nakhuda (shore) notice of the time & place where he will receive payment & shall at that time & place immediately refund to the shore Nakhuda the full advance taken from him. He shall receive payment in the presence of at least 1/3 of the crew.
9. When the system employed is Madyan the Nakhuda (Shore) is entitled to charge interest at the rate agreed upon, on the advance made by him to the sea Nakhuda, provided that in no case shall such interest exceed 20% on Tisqam advances or 10% on Salaf advances. The sea-Nakhuda shall be entitled to charge the crew on advances made to them, at the same rate that he is charged by the shore-Nakhuda but under no circumstances shall it exceed 20% on the Tisqam or 10%





93

on the Salaf (Note-The Tisqam is for one year ,while salaf is for approximately five months only).

The Makhuda (Shore) shall have no right under this system to purchase the pearls of the boat he has financed ^{but may do so} ~~except~~ with the consent of the Makhuda (sea) & at least 2/3 of the crew.

The share Makhuda must pay the full price at which the crew are willing to sell & can claim no reduction on market value under this system, nor can he object to the sale of the pearls to any person to whom the crew may wish to sell.

No Makhuda shall settle with a member of his crew without first writing in the personal account book of the member of the crew, a copy of his personal account, which shall be handed to him after being signed or sealed by the Makhuda.

Books for the personal accounts of divers are obtainable from the Government Office at the Customs pier on payment of annas six to be paid by the diver. No Makhuda shall pay off a diver until he is in possession of such a book & it has been entered up in accordance with para 10.

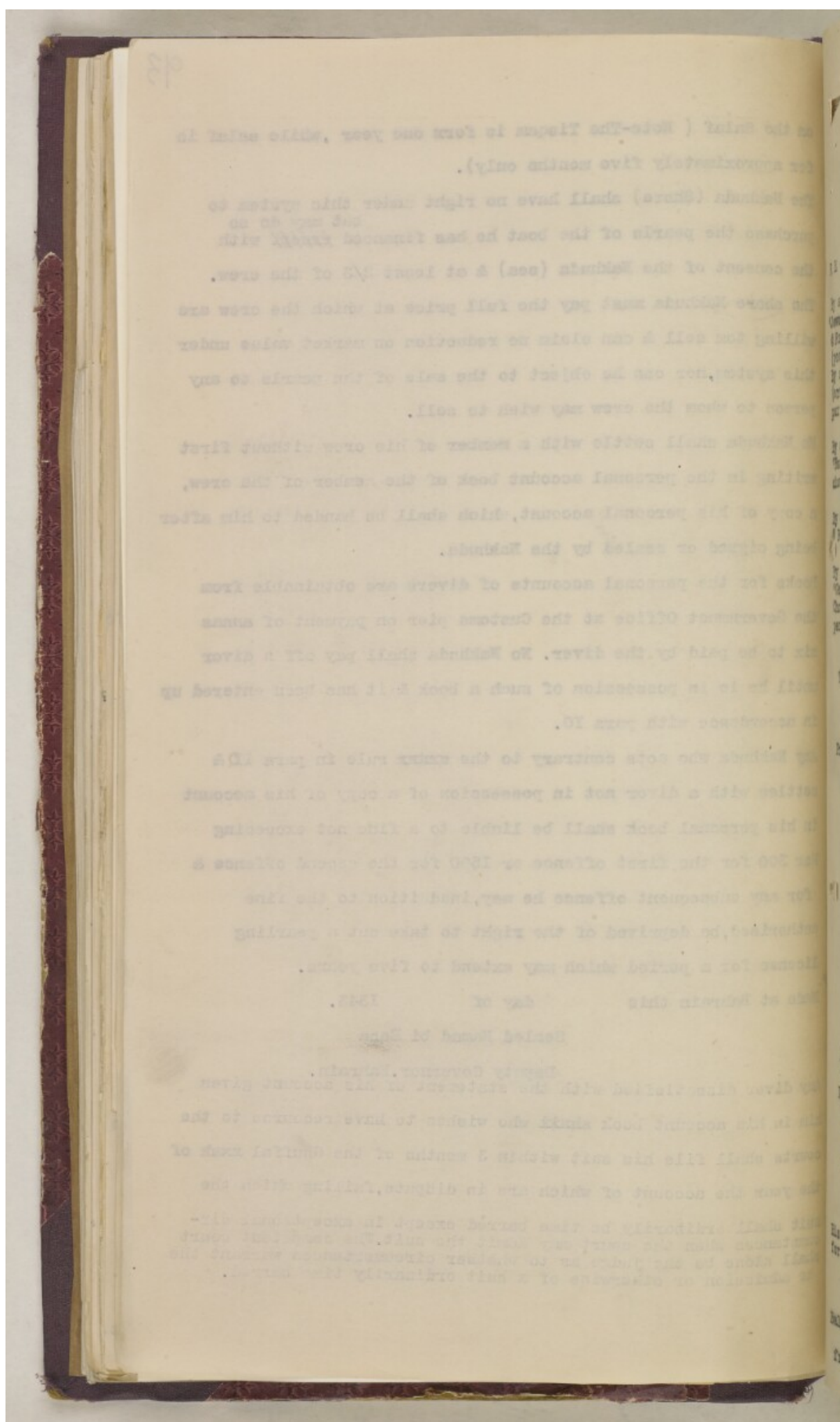
Any Makhuda who acts contrary to the ~~rule~~ rule in para 10 & settles with a diver not in possession of a copy of his account in his personal book shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 300 for the first offence or 1500 for the second offence & for any subsequent offence he may, in addition to the fine authorised, be deprived of the right to take out a pearling license for a period which may extend to five years.

Made at Bahrain this day of 1343.

Sealed Hamad bi Easa

Deputy Governor, Bahrain.

Any diver dissatisfied with the statement of his account given him in his account book ~~shall~~ who wishes to have recourse to the courts shall file his suit within 3 months of the Ghuffal ~~year~~ of the year the account of which are in dispute, failing which the suit shall ordinarily be time barred except in exceptional circumstances when the court may admit the suit. The competent court shall alone be the judge as to whether circumstances warrant the admission or otherwise of a suit ordinarily time barred.





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Example of a Nakhuda's General Account.

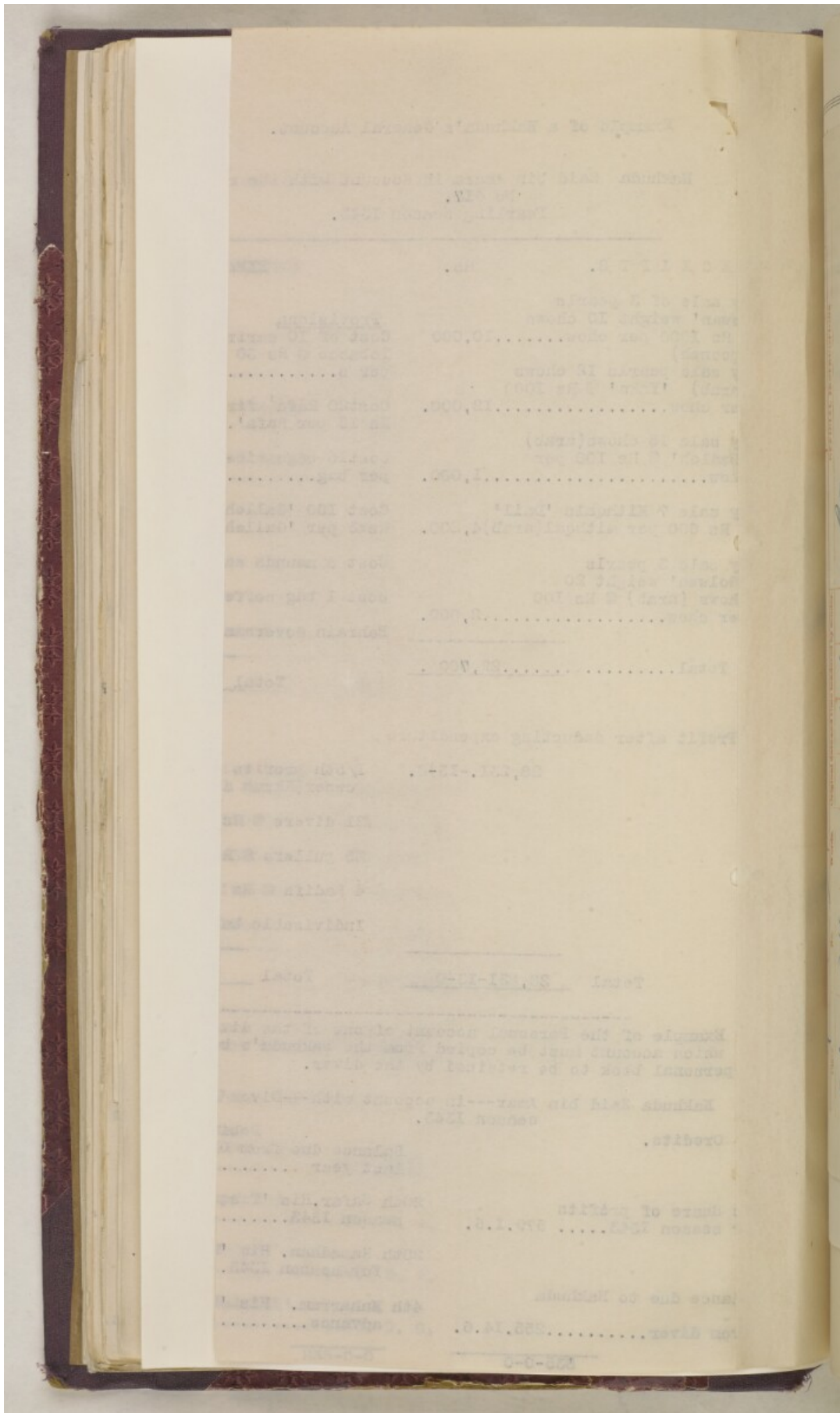
Nakhuda Zaid bin Amara in account with the crew of Boat
No 612.
Pearling season 1343.

| RECEIPTS. | Rs. | EXPENDITURE. |
|---|-----|---|
| By sale of 3 pearls 'Jewan' weight 10 chows @ Rs 1000 per chow.....10,000 (poonah) By sale pearls 12 chows (arab) 'Yaka' @ Rs 1000 per chow.....12,000. By sale 15 chows(arab) 'Badleh' @ Rs 100 per chow.....1,000. By sale 7 Mithqals 'Dail' @ Rs 600 per mithqal(arab)4,200. By sale 3 pearls 'Golwah' weight 20 Chows (arab) @ Rs 100 per chow.....2,000. Total.....29,700. | | Provisions Cost of 10 sarir Tobacco @ Rs 30 per s.....300. Cost 20 Rafa' firewood @ Rs 15 per Rafa'.....300. Cost 15 bags rice @ Rs 16 per bag.....240. Cost 100 'Galleh' dates @ Rs 3 per 'Galleh'.....300. Cost 3 maunds salt @Rs 3.....9. cost 1 bag coffee... ..120. Bahrain Government Tax.....200. Total.....1469. |
| Profit after deducting expenditure | | |
| 28,231.-13-0. | | 1/5th profits for boat owner(Khums al Mahmal)...5646-3-0 21 divers @ Rs579-1-6 12,160-15-6 25 pullers @ Rs386-1-0 9651-9-0 4 Radifs @ Rs 193-0-6. 772-2-0. Indivisible balance - 2-6. Total 28,231-13-0 Total 28,231-13-0 |


Example of the Personal account of one of the divers of the above boat
which account must be copied from the Nakhuda's book into the divers
personal book to be retained by the diver.

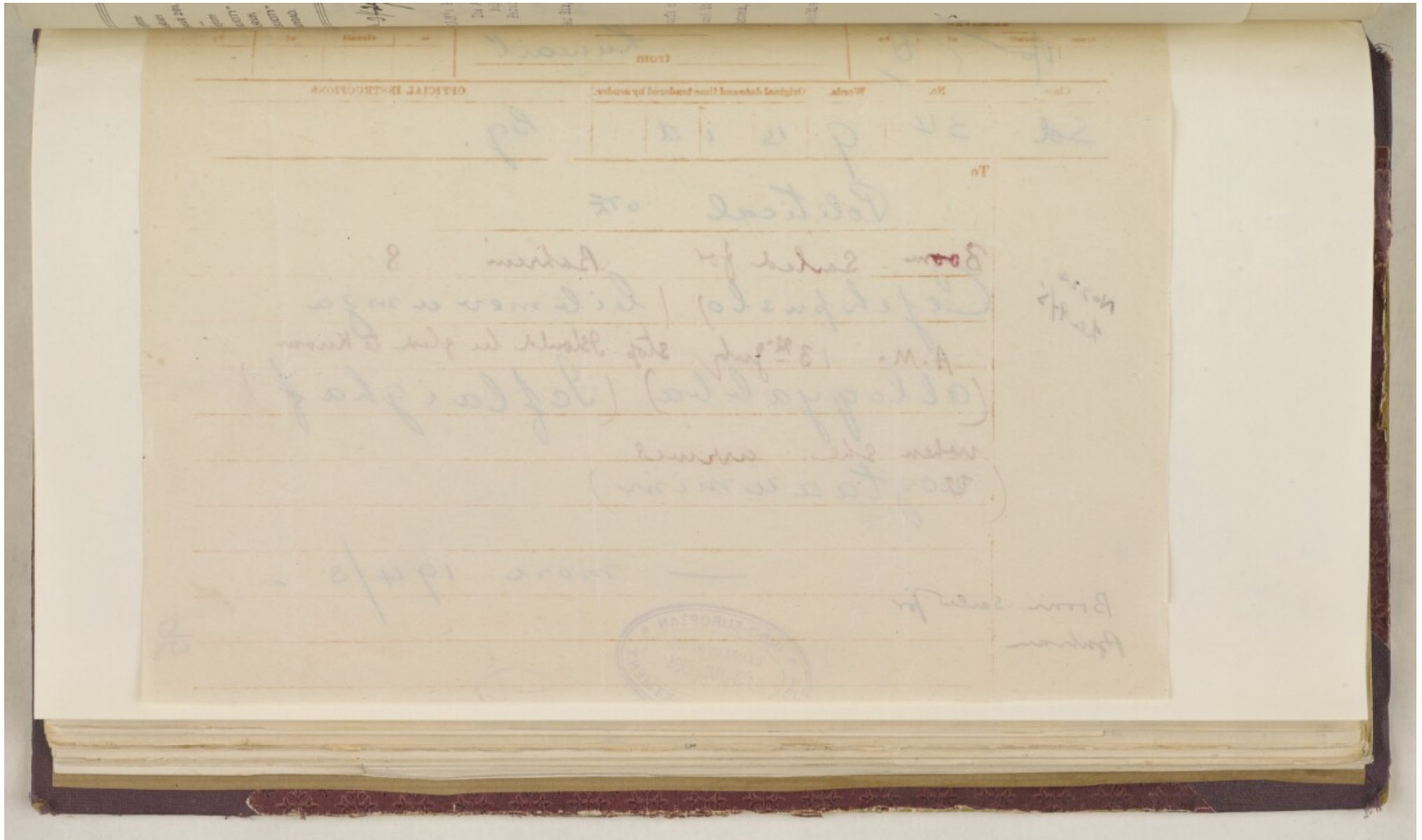
Nakhuda Zaid bin Amar---in account with---Diver Fulan bin Fulan.
season 1343.

| Credits. | Debits. |
|---|---|
| His Share of profits for season 1343..... 579.1.6. | Balance due from Diver from Rs.a.p. last year 375. 6.6. |
| Balance due to Nakhuda from diver.....255.14.6. | 20th Safar.His 'Tisqam' for season 1343..... .250..0. 0. 23th Ramadhan. His 'Salaf' for season 1343.....190. 0. 0. 4th Muharram. His 'Saifish' advance.....20. 0. 0. |
| 835-0-0 | 835-0-0 |





| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----------|--|----|-----------------------|----|----|
| from | at | by | from | to | circuit | at | by |
| 1/2 | 8 | | Kumail | | | | |
| Class | No. | Words | Original date and time tendered by sender. | | OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS | | |
| Sd | 34 | 9 13 id. | Bg. | | | | |
| To | | | | | | | |
| Political 67K | | | | | | | |
| Boon Sailed for Bahrein 8 | | | | | | | |
| Cefehpuslo / lib mev umza | | | | | | | |
| A.M. 13 th July stop I should be glad to know | | | | | | | |
| (allogya bba) (Icfla ighaf) | | | | | | | |
| when she arrives | | | | | | | |
| (woztaamin) | | | | | | | |
| — more 194/8 — | | | | | | | |
| Boon sailed for Bahrein | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 96 | | | | | | | |





9/5 96

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Telephone BASRAH 02 ASHAR 201.</p> <p>Telegrams "PUBLICITY" BASRAH. "PUBLICITY" BAGHDAD.</p> | <p>THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. (MESOPOTAMIA), LTD.</p> <p>Head Office: BASRAH. Branch at BAGHDAD.</p> <p>PROPRIETORS: "TIMES OF MESOPOTAMIA," "BAGHDAD TIMES" & "AUQAT AL IRAQIYAH."</p> | <p>PRINTERS, PUBLISHERS AND ACCOUNTS BOOK MAKERS.</p> |
|---|--|---|

P. O. Box. No. 46

No. 3420/8 Basrah, 10th July 1924

H.B.M.'s Political Agent,
The Agency,
Bahrein,
Persian Gulf.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your No 113/9/5 of the 16th May.

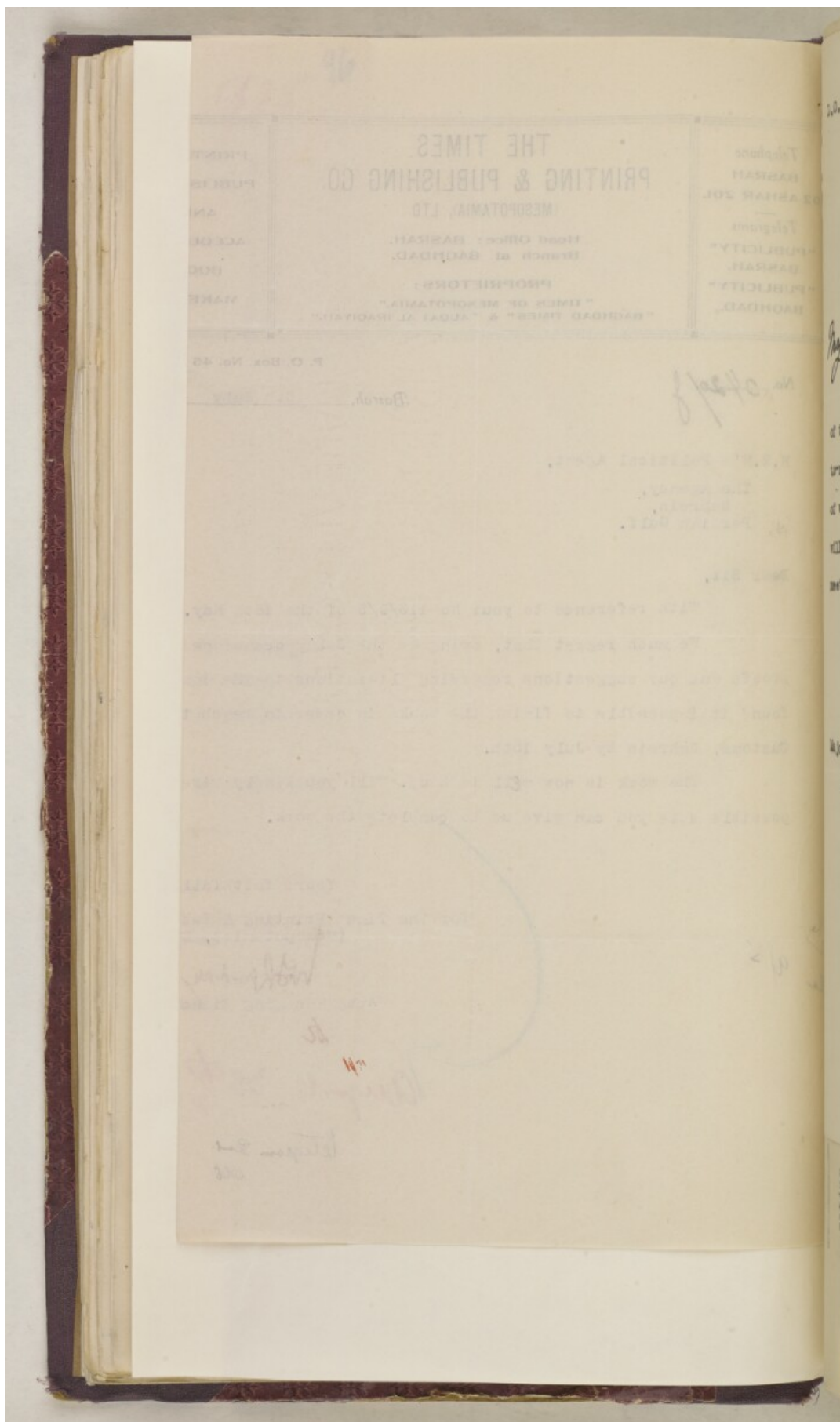
We much regret that, owing to the delay occasioned by sending proofs and our suggestions regarding alterations to the inside form, we found it impossible to finish the books in order to reach the Director of Customs, Bahrein by July 15th.

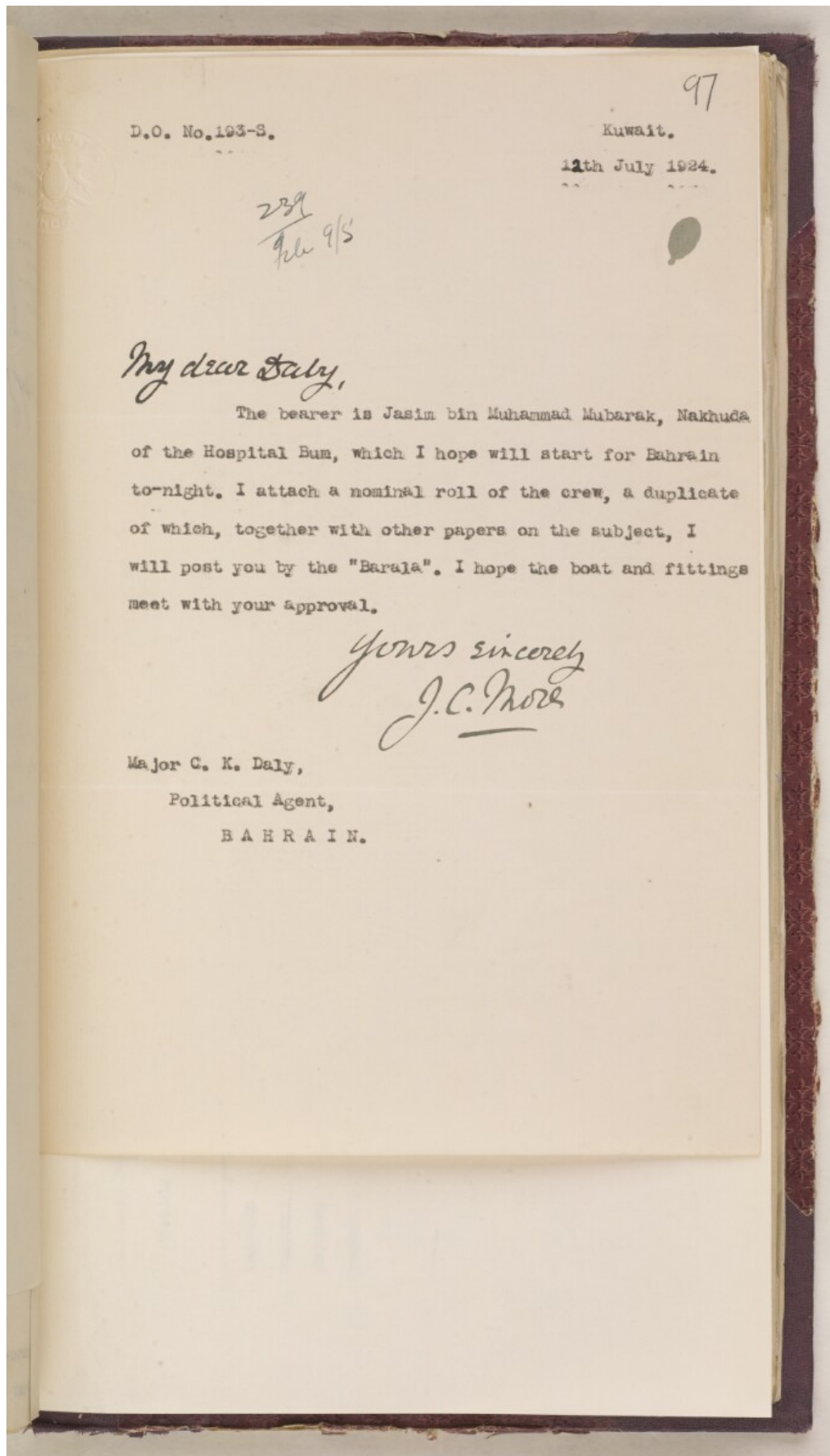
The work is now well in hand. Will you kindly wire us the latest possible date you can give us to complete the work.

Yours faithfully,
for The Times Printing & Publishing Co,
(Mesopotamia), Ltd.,
W. H. R. M. D. A.
Actg Managing Director.

August 30th
Telegram Sent
5/28

6.
a/s





D.O. No. 193-S.

97
Kuwait.

12th July 1924.

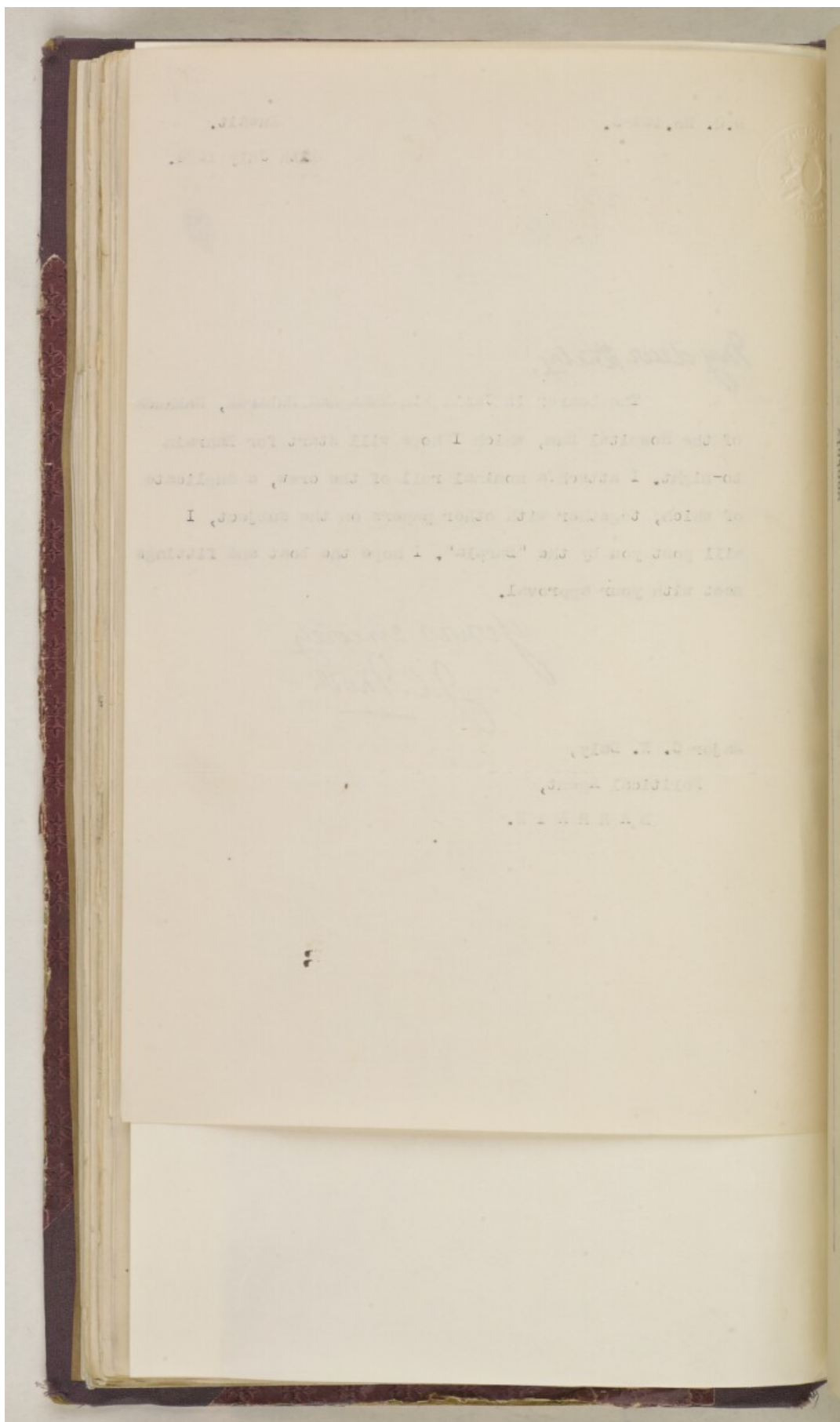
239
file 9/5

My dear Daly,

The bearer is Jasim bin Muhammad Mubarak, Nakhuda of the Hospital Bum, which I hope will start for Bahrain to-night. I attach a nominal roll of the crew, a duplicate of which, together with other papers on the subject, I will post you by the "Barala". I hope the boat and fittings meet with your approval.

*Yours sincerely
J.C. Moore*

Major C. K. Daly,
Political Agent,
B A H R A I N.





'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration' [98r] (214/434)

THE SHAIRH OF BAHRAIN.

Engaged with effect from the 20th Dhul Qadah 1342 i.e. 24th June 1924.

| Rating | NAME. | Domicile. | Monthly rate of pay. Rs. as.p. | Amount advanced. Rs. as.p. |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Nakhuda ... | Jasim bin Muhammad Mubarak | Kuwait | 120-0-0 | 240-0-0 |
| Sukkani ... | Yusuf bin Jasim | -do- | 55-0-0 | 110-0-0 |
| Sarhang | Husein bin 'Ali | -do- | 50-0-0 | 100-0-0 |
| Seamen | Muhammad bin Faraj ... | -do- | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdullah bin Nasir al-'Anjari ... | -do- | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdur Rahim bin 'Ali | -do- | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdullah bin 'Isa | Qasbah .. | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdur Radha bin Radha | -do- | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | Muhammad bin Ibrahim | Kuwait ... | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | Ali bin Hajji | -do- | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| Total | | | RS. | 850-0-0 |

J.C.M.

86



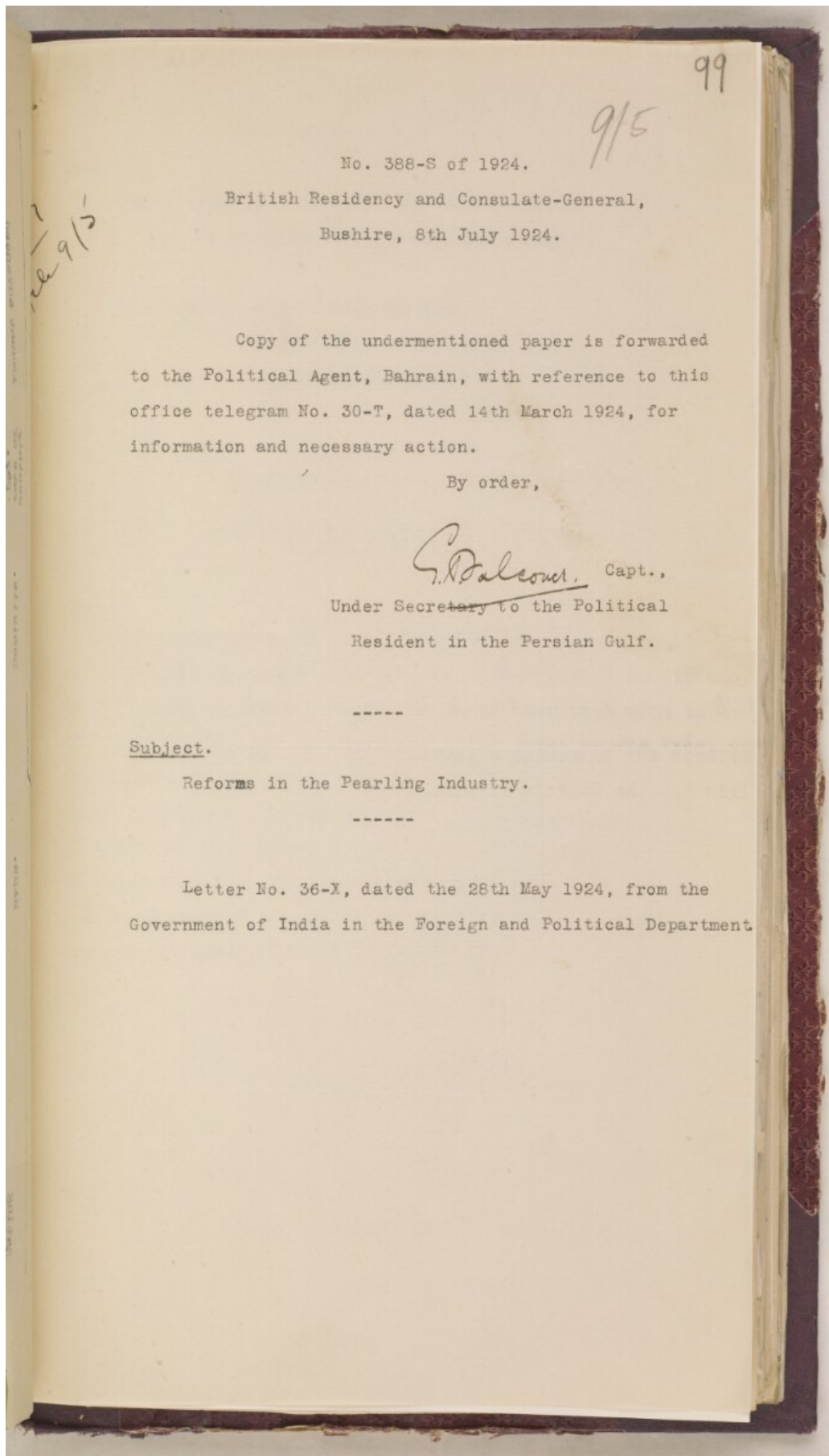
'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration' [98v] (215/434)

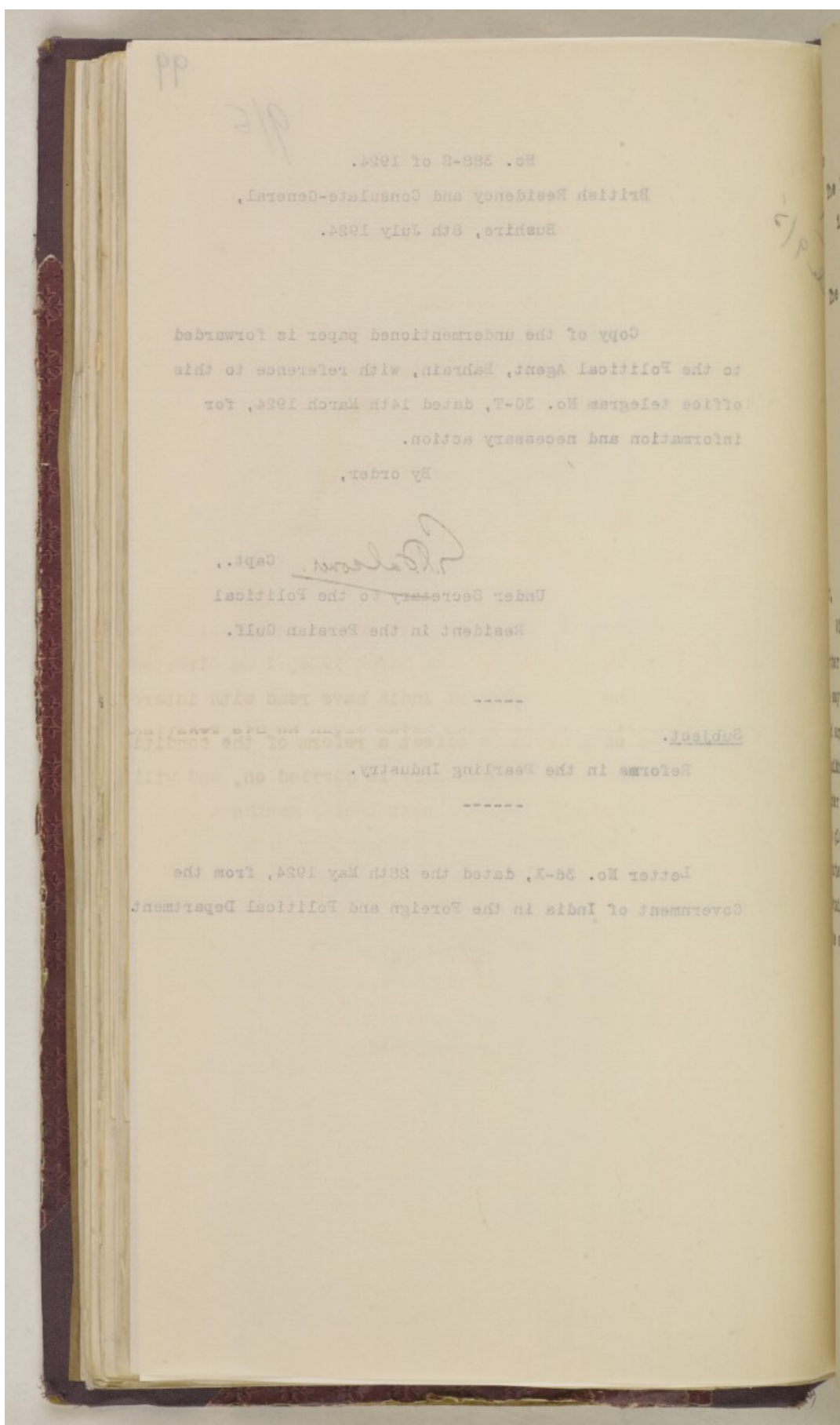
THE SHEET OF BAHRAIN.

Engaged with effect from the 20th Dhul Qadah 1342 i.e. 24th June 1924.

| Rating | NAME. | Domicile. | Monthly rate of pay. Rs. as.p. | Amount advanced. Rs. as.p. |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rankings | Jasim bin Muhammad Musarak | Kuwait | 120-0-0 | 240-0-0 |
| Rankings | Yusuf bin Jasim | do | 80-0-0 | 110-0-0 |
| Rankings | Hussein bin 'Ali | do | 50-0-0 | 100-0-0 |
| Rankings | Muhammad bin Faraj | do | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdullah bin Nasir al-'Anjari | do | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdur Rahman bin 'Ali | do | 40-0-0 | 80-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdullah bin 'Isa | Qasbi | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | 'Abdur Rahman bin Ragha | do | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | Muhammad bin Ibrahim | Kuwait | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| " | 'Ali bin Haddad | do | 40-0-0 | 40-0-0 |
| | Total | | Rs. 560-0-0 | |

8/2







100

No. 36-X.

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department,

To

The Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel
F.B. Prideaux, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Dated Simla, the 26th May 1924.

Reforms in the Pearling Industry.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No.27-T., dated the 13th March 1924, I am directed to say that the Government of India have read with interest and appreciation of the steps being taken by His Excellency Shaikh Hamad of Bahrein to effect a reform of the conditions under which the pearling industry is carried on, and will be glad to receive within the next twelve months a statement of the results achieved together with a more detailed account of the system introduced and copies of the actual orders issued by Shaikh Hamad.

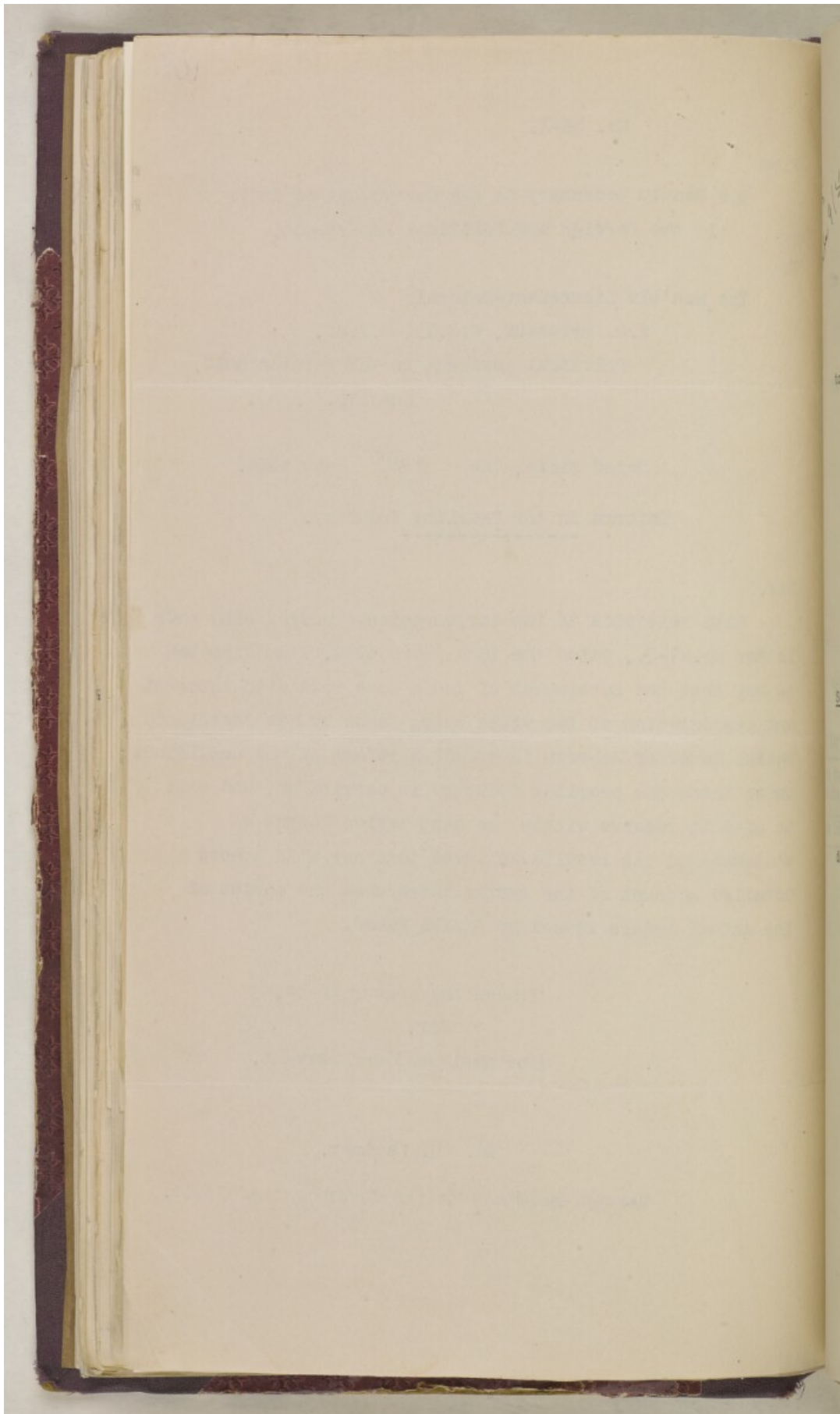
I have the honour to be,

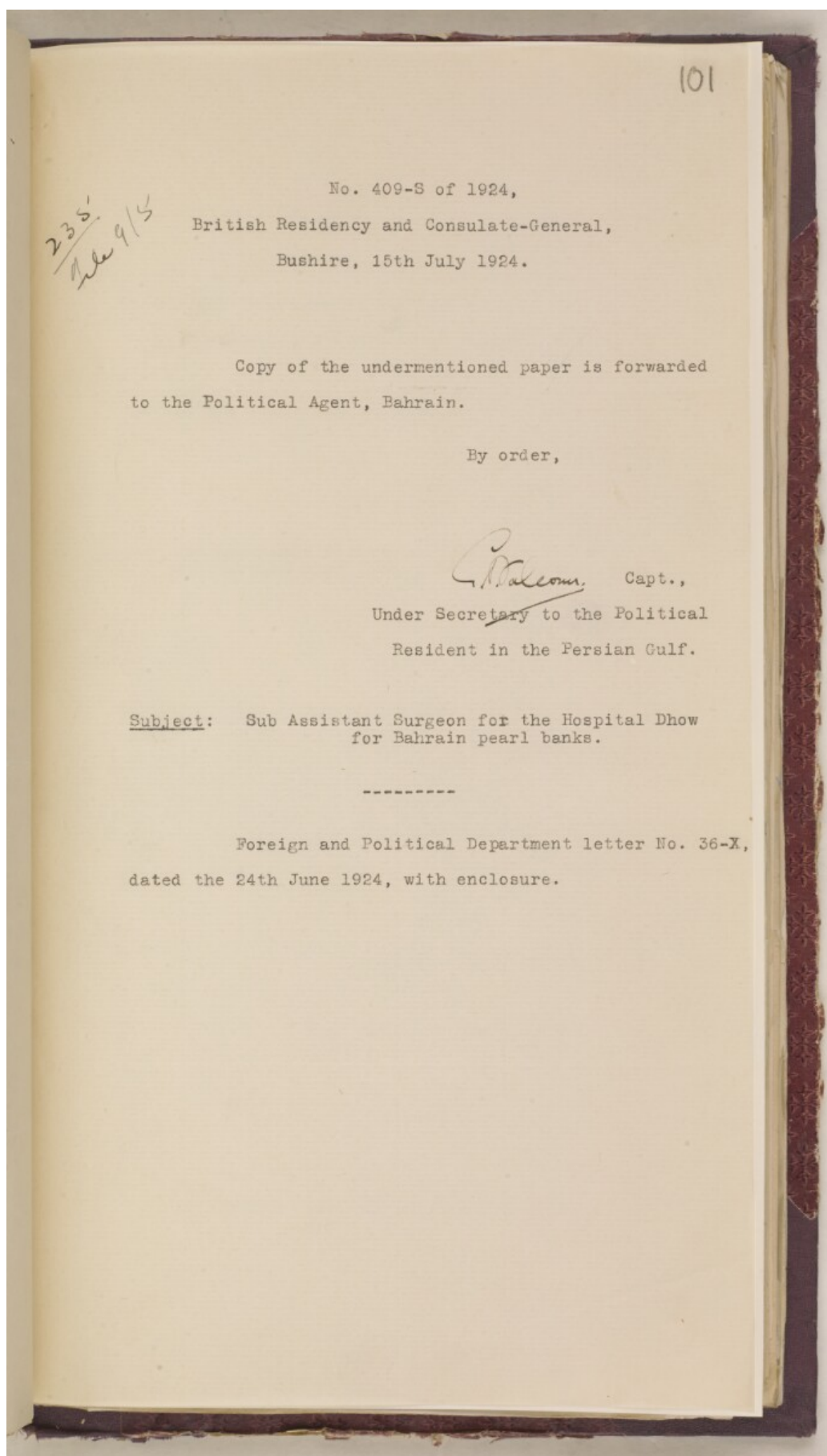
Sir,

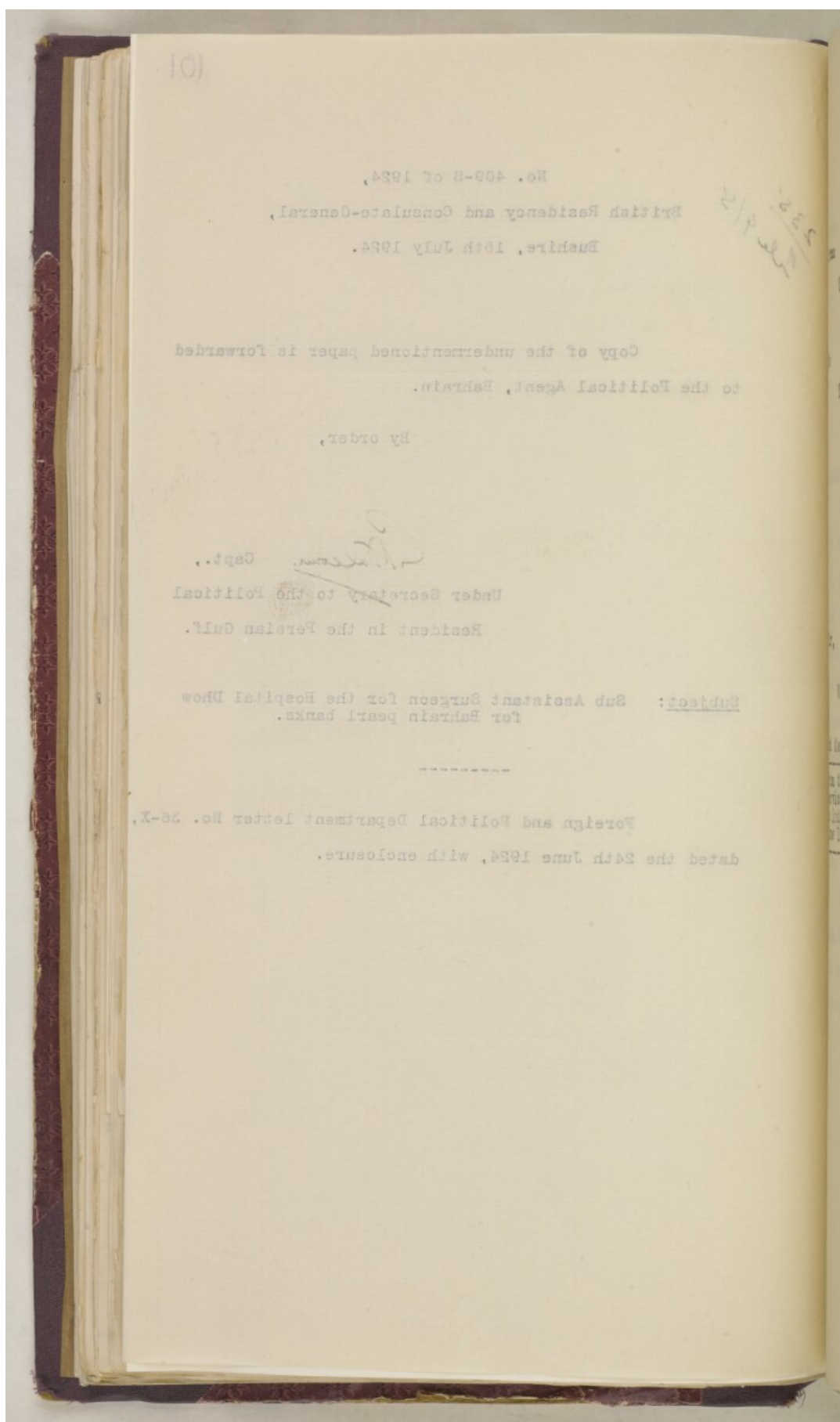
Your most obedient servant,

Sd. C. Latimer,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.









102

No. 36-M.

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department,

To

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Dated Simla, the 24th June 1924.

Sub Assistant Surgeon for the Hospital Dhow
for Bahrein pearl banks.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No.596-X., dated the

2nd May 1924, I am directed to forward, for information, a copy

From the Director General, Indian Medical Service, to the Director, Medical Services in India, No.395/2152-B., dated 12th June 1924. } of the letter
----- marginally cited.

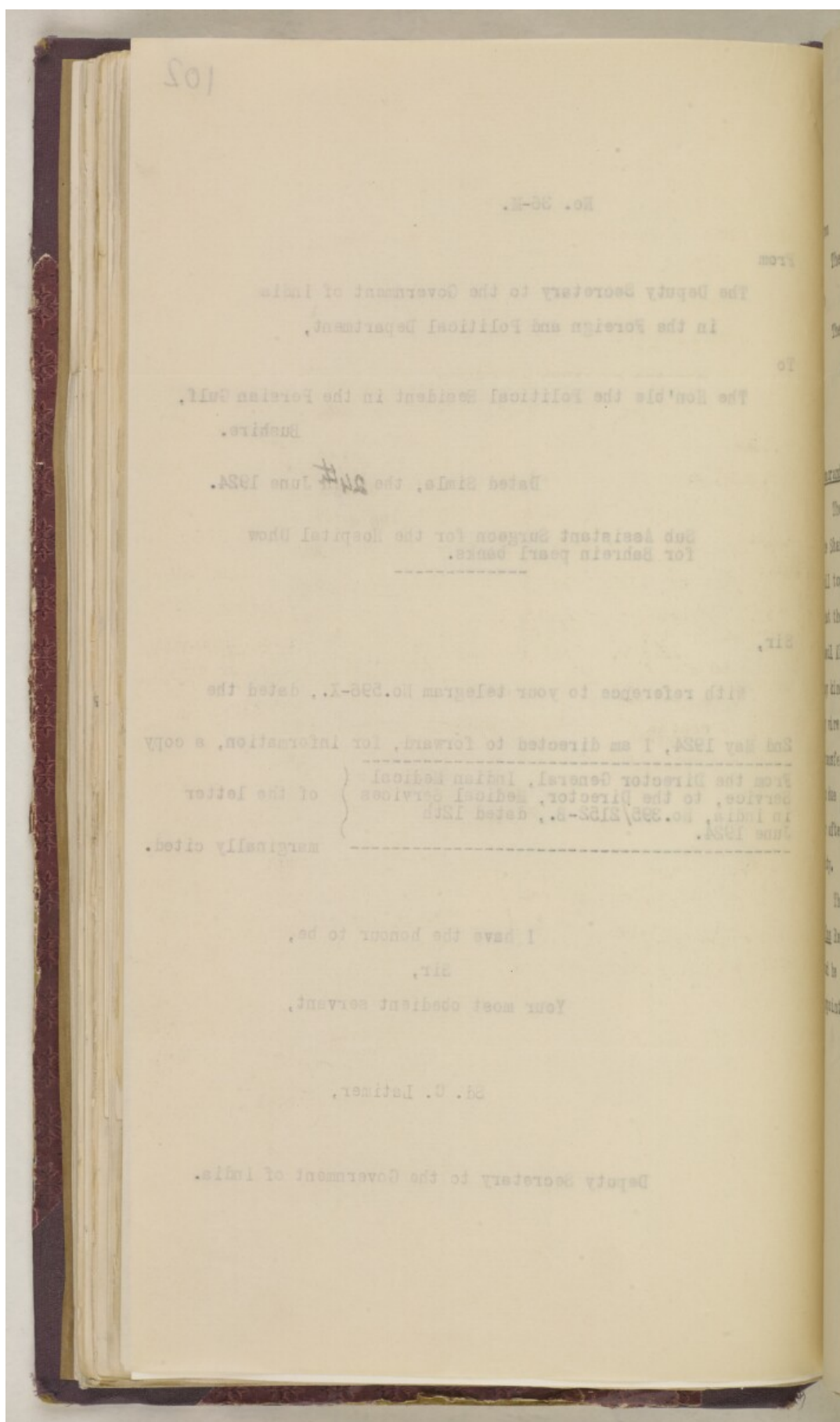
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd. C. Latimer,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.





103

No.395/2152-B.

From

The Director General, Indian Medical Service,

To

The Director,

Medical Services in India,

Simla.

Simla, the 12th June 1924.

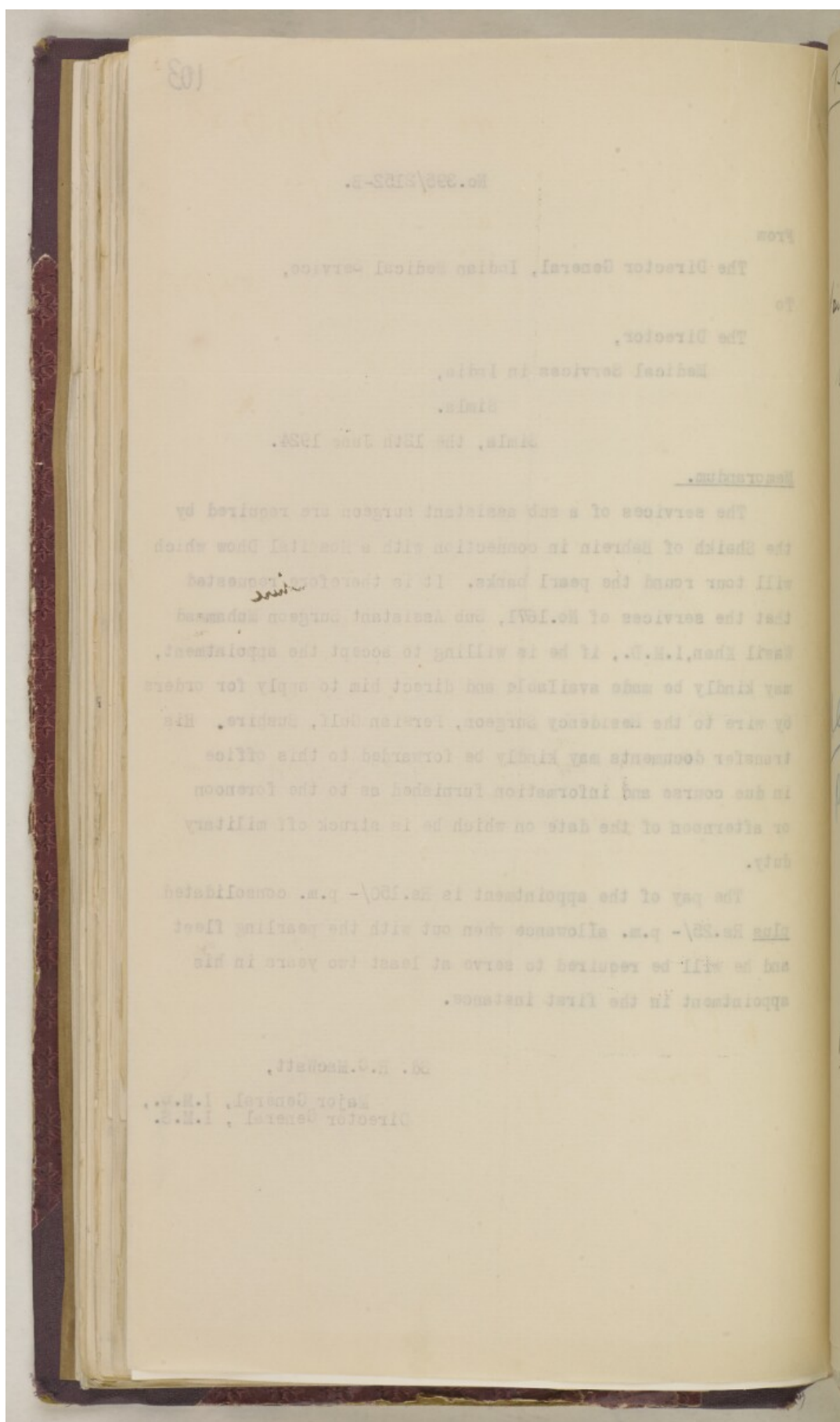
Memorandum.

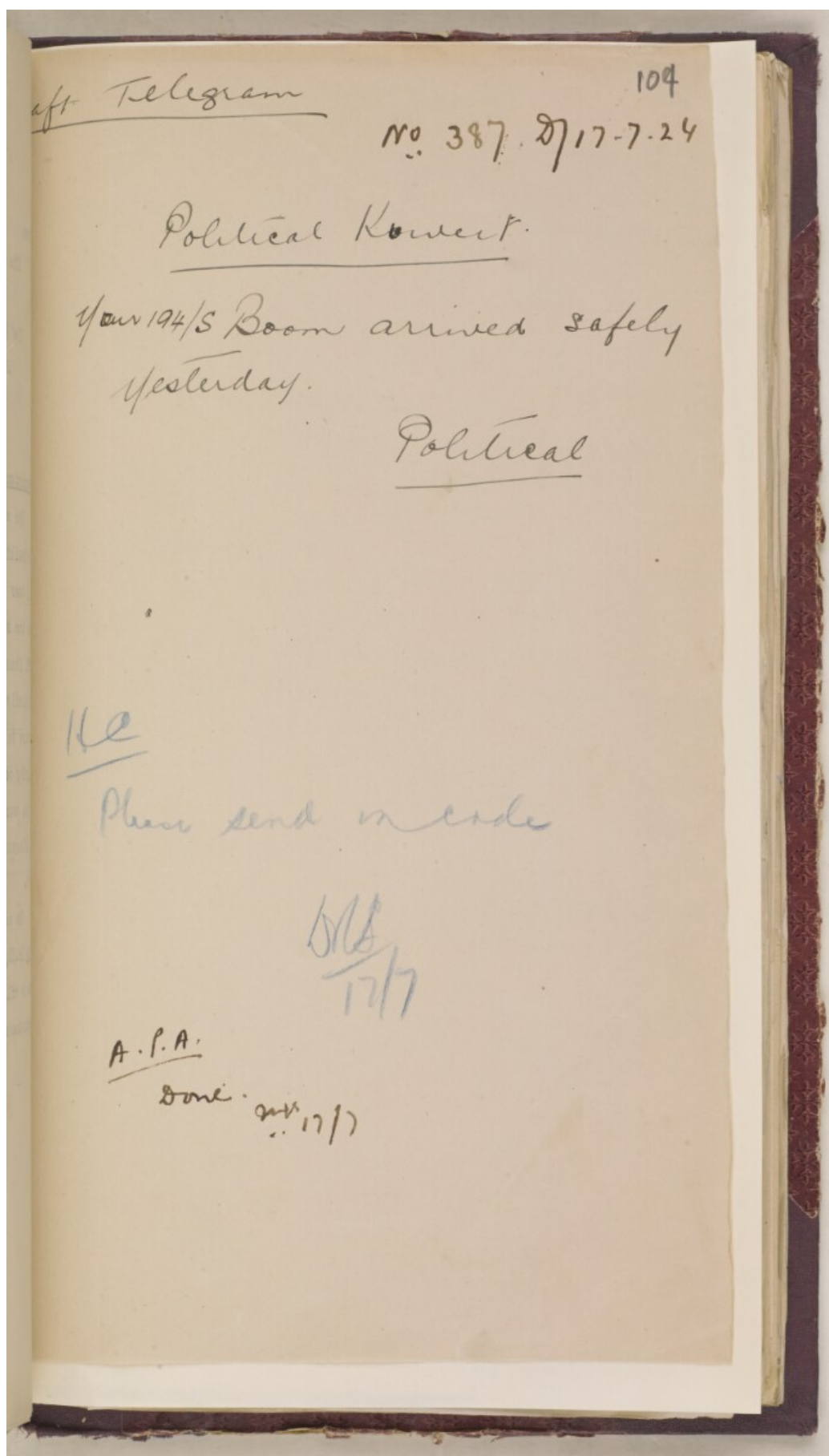
The services of a sub assistant surgeon are required by the Shaikh of Bahrein in connection with a Hospital Dhow which will tour round the pearl banks. It is therefore requested that the services of No.1671, Sub Assistant Surgeon Muhammad Wasil Khan, I.M.D., if he is willing to accept the appointment, may kindly be made available and direct him to apply for orders by wire to the Residency Surgeon, Persian Gulf, Bushire. His transfer documents may kindly be forwarded to this office in due course and information furnished as to the forenoon or afternoon of the date on which he is struck off military duty.

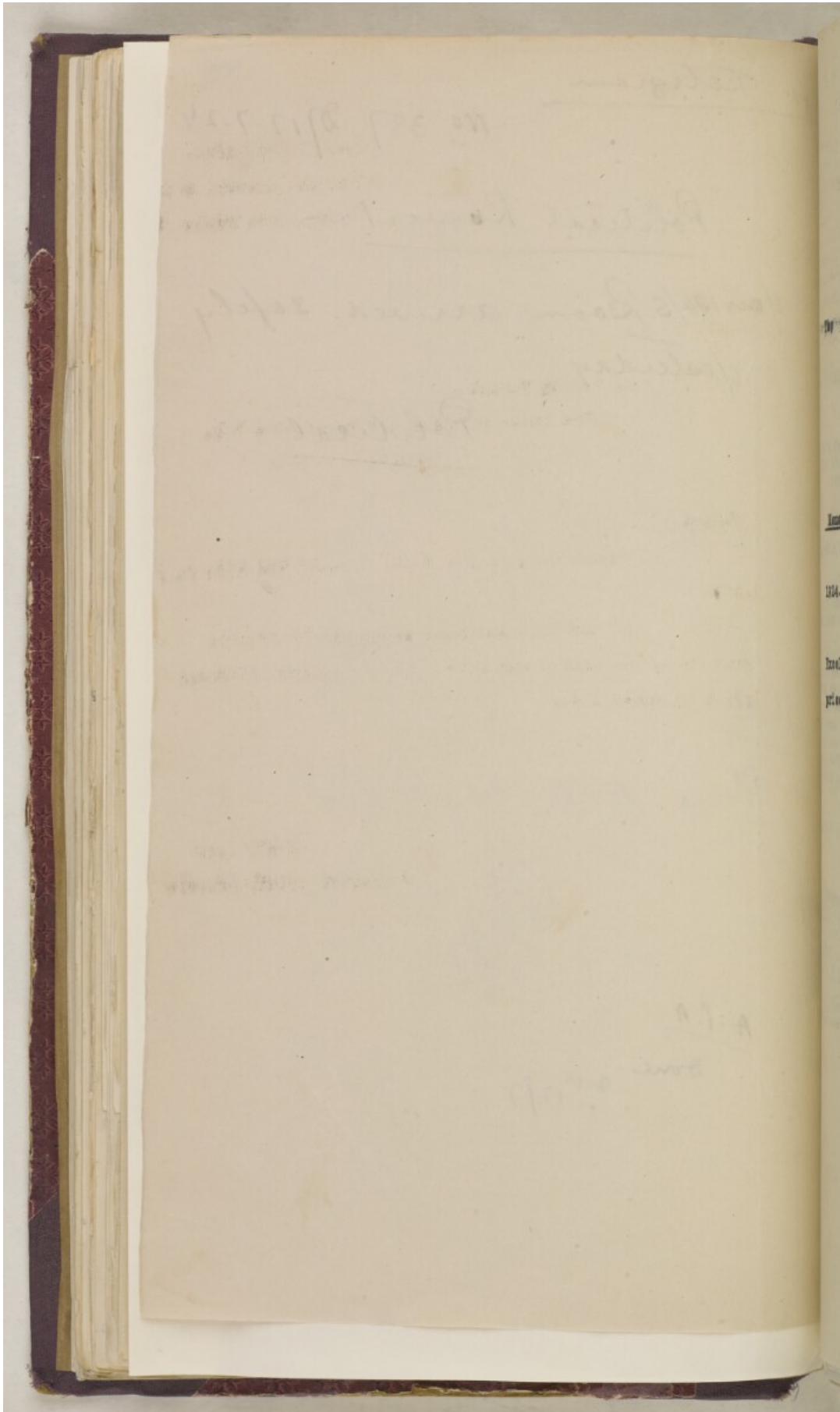
The pay of the appointment is Rs.150/- p.m. consolidated plus Rs.25/- p.m. allowance when out with the pearling fleet and he will be required to serve at least two years in his appointment in the first instance.

Sd. R.C.MacWatt,

Major General, I.M.S.,
Director General, I.M.S.









105

No. 87/9/5 of 1924.

Political Agency, Bahrain

Dated 16th August 1924

~~The~~

The Acting Manager,

The Times Printing and Publishing Coy.

(Mesopotamia) Ltd.

B a s r a.

Memorandum.

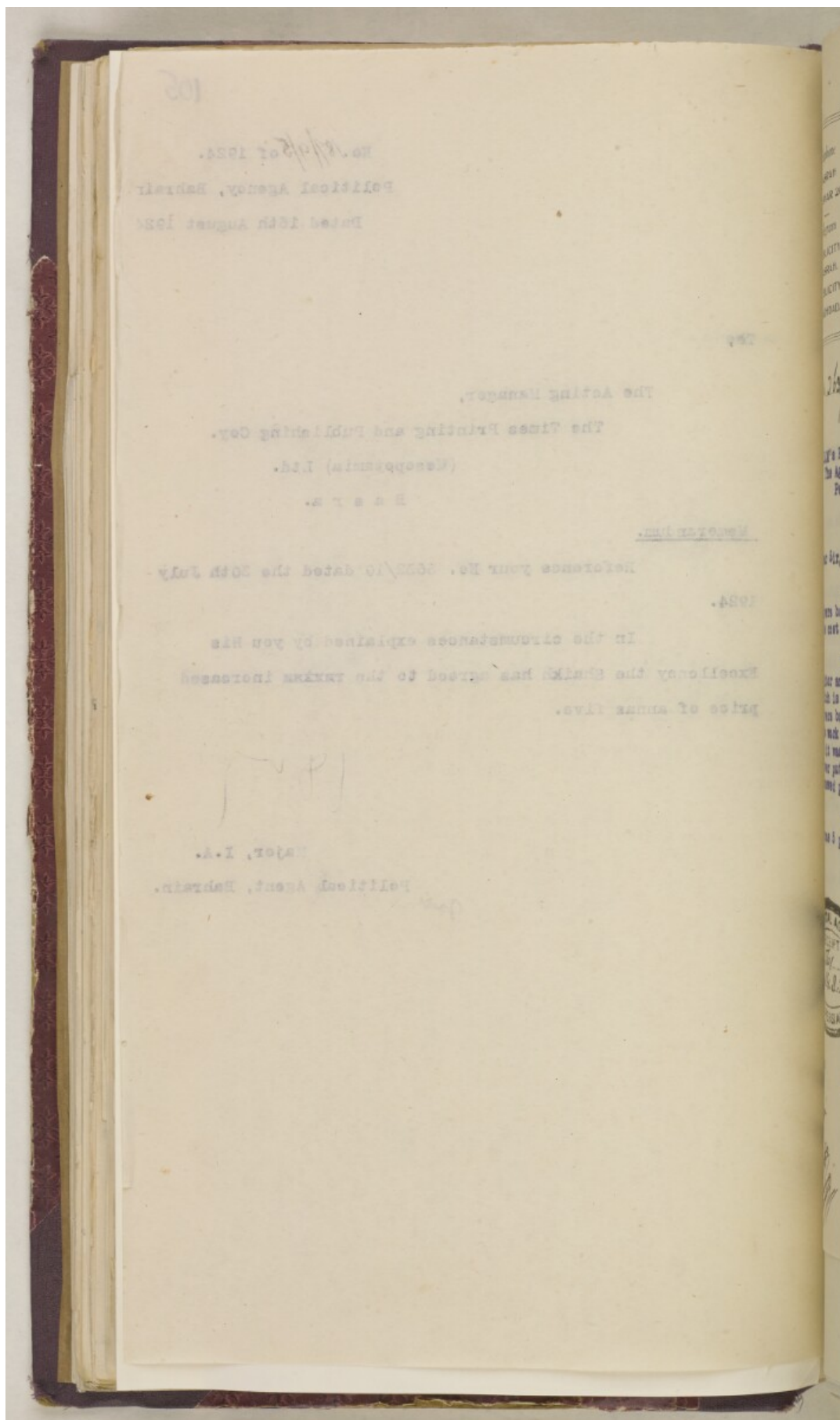
Reference your No. 3632/10 dated the 30th July 1924.

In the circumstances explained by you His Excellency the Shaikh has agreed to the ~~maxima~~ increased price of annas five.

Major, I.A.

Political Agent, Bahrain.

Jan





254 file 9/5 106

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Telephone BASRAH 02 ASHAR 201.</p> <p>Telegrams "PUBLICITY" BASRAH. "PUBLICITY" BAGHDAD.</p> | <p>THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. (MESOPOTAMIA), LTD</p> <p>Head Office: BASRAH. Branch at BAGHDAD</p> <p>PROPRIETORS: "TIMES OF MESOPOTAMIA," "BAGHDAD TIMES" & "ALQAT AL IRAQIYAH."</p> | <p>PRINTERS, PUBLISHERS AND ACCOUNTS BOOK MAKERS</p> |
|---|--|--|

No. 2632/10

P. O. Box. No. 46
Basrah, 30th July 1924.

H.B.M's Political Agent,
The Agency, Bahrain.
Persian Gulf.

Dear Sir,

We find that the verbal quotation given to you for making 20,000 Divers books bound in stiff linen covers, pass-port size, does not cover the cost of materials used and labour.

The quotation was given during my absence through sickness by our Editor and insufficient allowance was made for the cost of binding cloth, which is expensive, and could only really be used for the superior quality divers books for whom I understand he quoted annas 6 each. To ensure getting the work through quickly we used good binding cloth which we had in stock as it was impossible to get cheaper cloth from England or India in time. The cover put in will last a long time and allow for the inside pages being renewed periodically.

We should feel obliged if you could see your way clear to allow us annas 5 per book which will just cover our out of pocket expenses.

Yours faithfully,
for The Times Printing & Publishing Co,
(Mesopotamia), Ltd.,
W. H. M. Dwyer
Actg Managing Director.

POLITICAL AGENCY RECEIPT
No. 561
Date 14.8.24
BHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF.

P.A.
I believe this is intended for
H.E. Sheikh's Book.
14/8
Under the circumstances planned
the book has agreed to increase price of 5.





107

No. 9/5 of 1924.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

The 16th August 1924.

To

The Secretary to the

Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

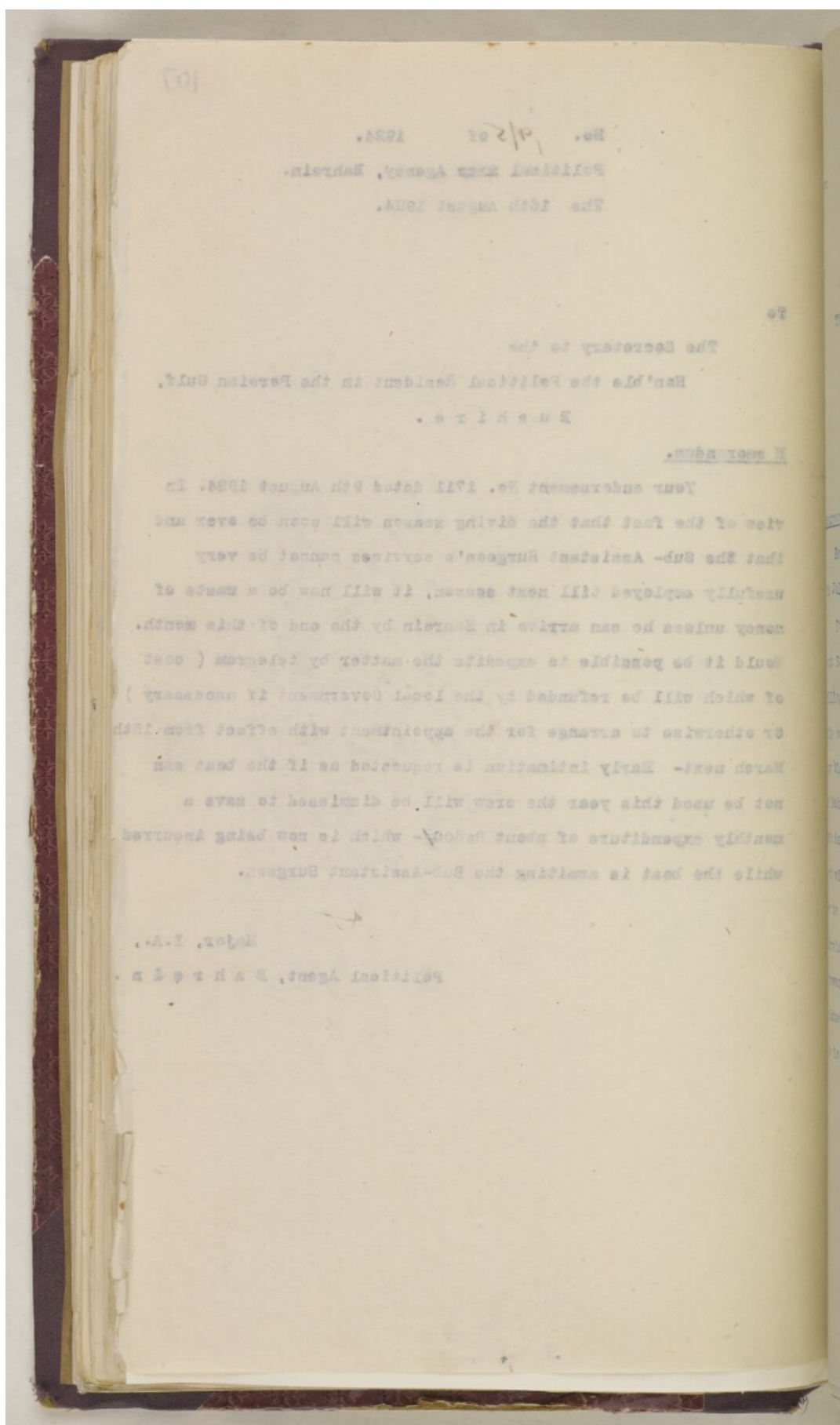
B u s h i r e .

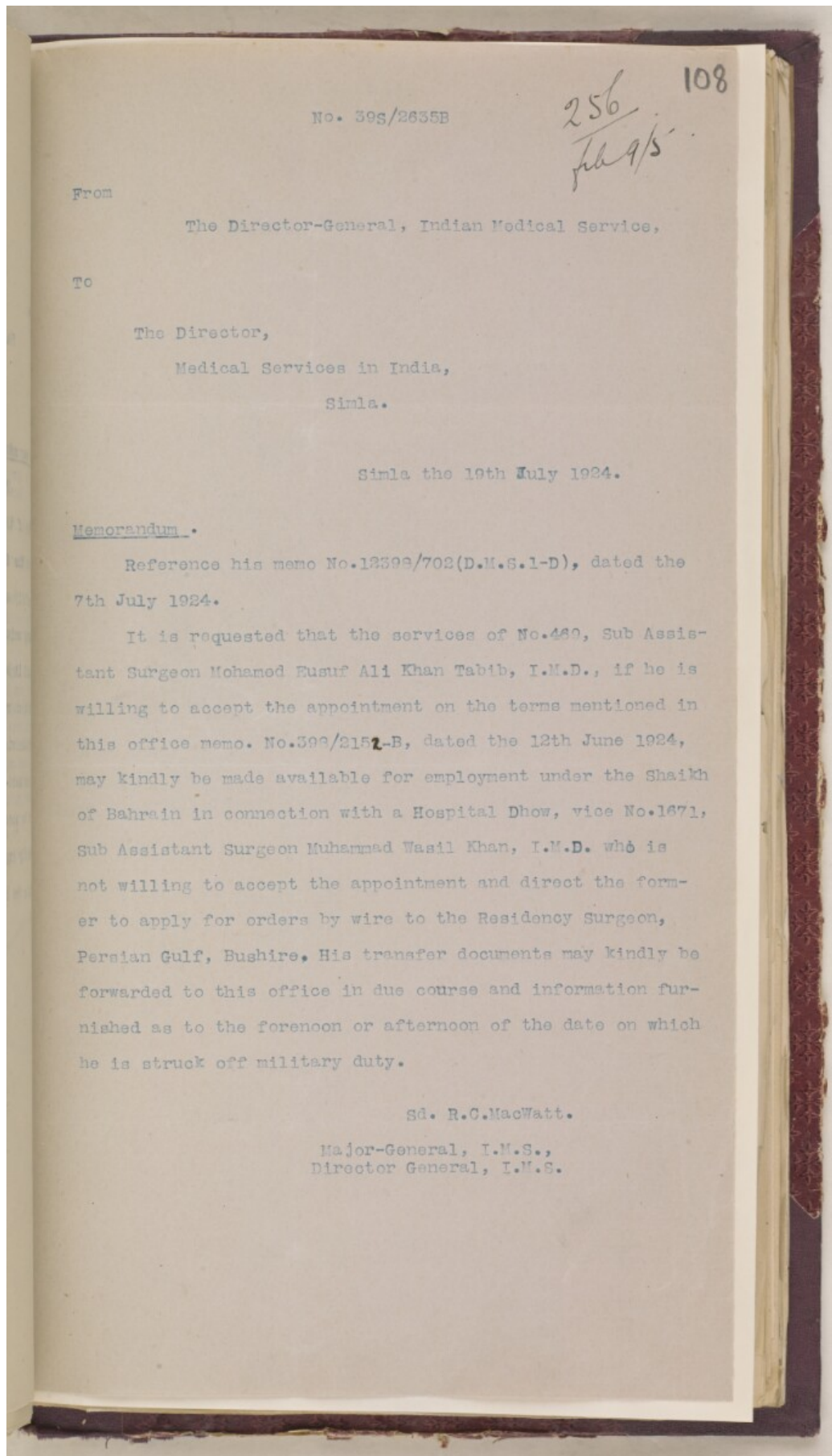
M e m o r a n d u m .

Your endorsement No. 1711 dated 9th August 1924. In view of the fact that the diving season will soon be over and that The Sub- Assistant Surgeon's services cannot be very usefully employed till next season, it will now be a waste of money unless he can arrive in Bahrain by the end of this month. Would it be possible to expedite the matter by telegram (cost of which will be refunded by the local Government if necessary) Or otherwise to arrange for the appointment with effect from 15th March next- Early intimation is requested as if the boat can not be used this year the crew will be dismissed to save a monthly expenditure of about Rs600/- which is now being incurred while the boat is awaiting the Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

Majer, I.A.,

Political Agent, B a h r e i n .





No. 398/2635B

From

The Director-General, Indian Medical Service,

To

The Director,
Medical Services in India,
Simla.

Simla the 19th July 1924.

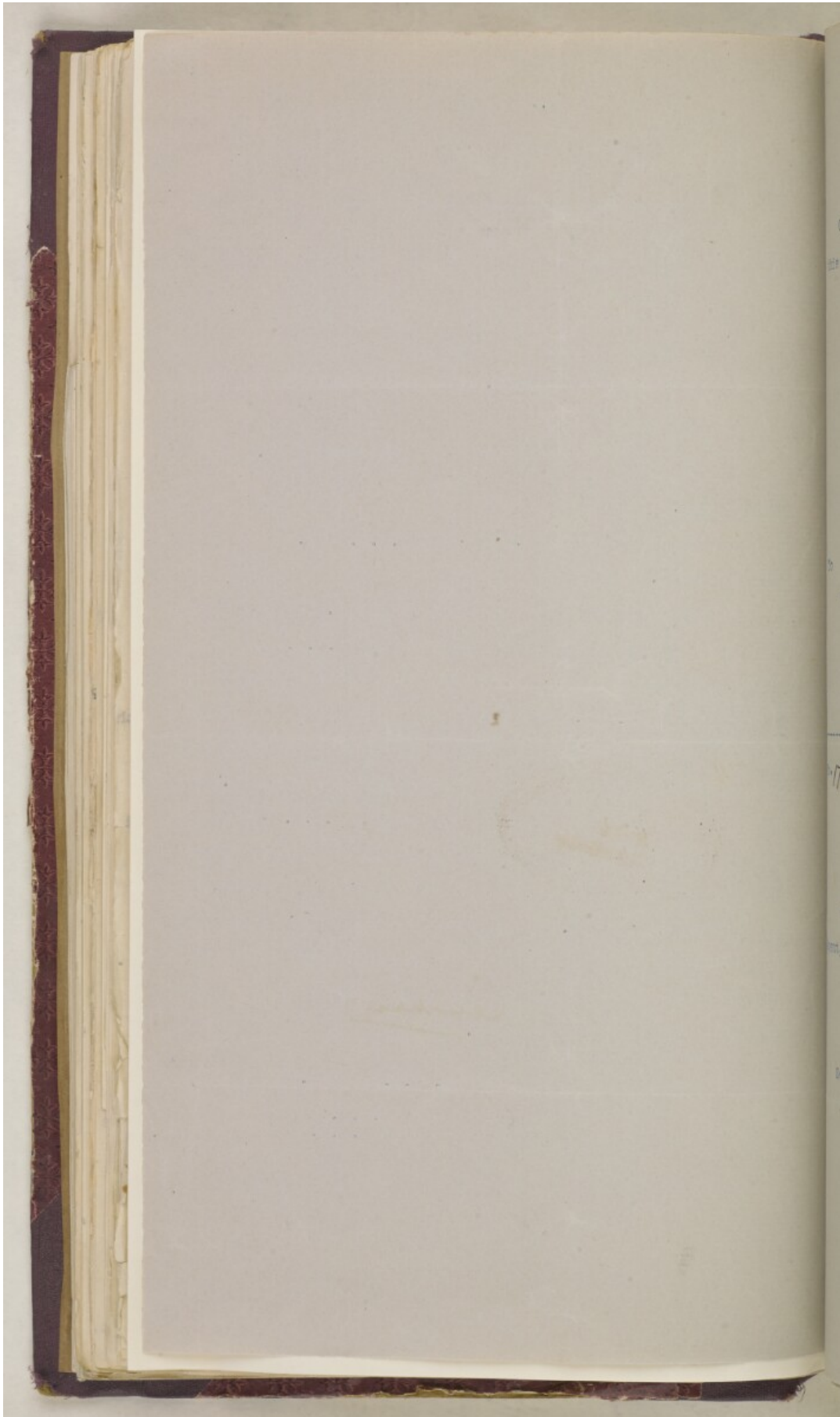
Memorandum.

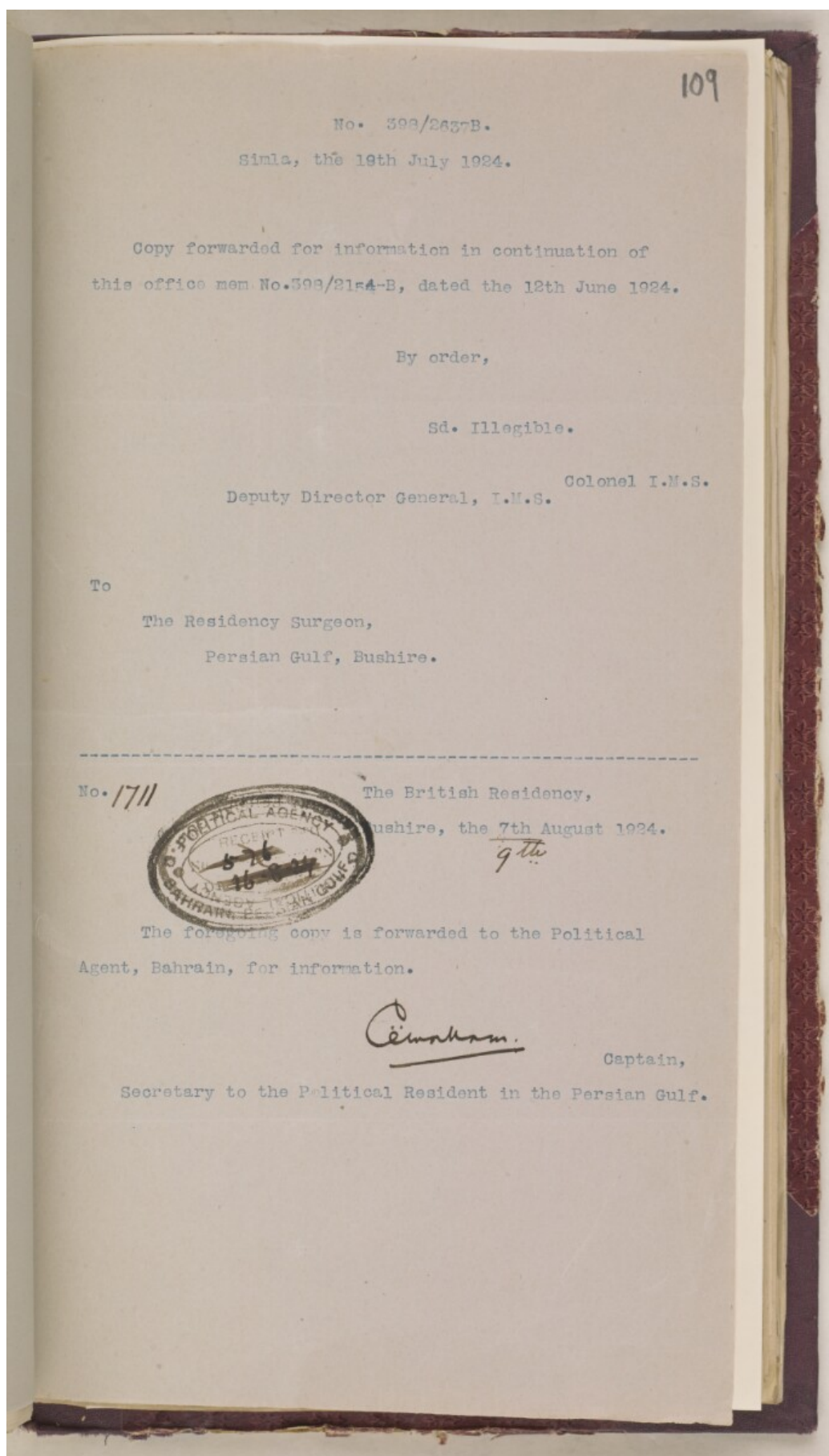
Reference his memo No. 12392/702(D.M.S.1-D), dated the 7th July 1924.

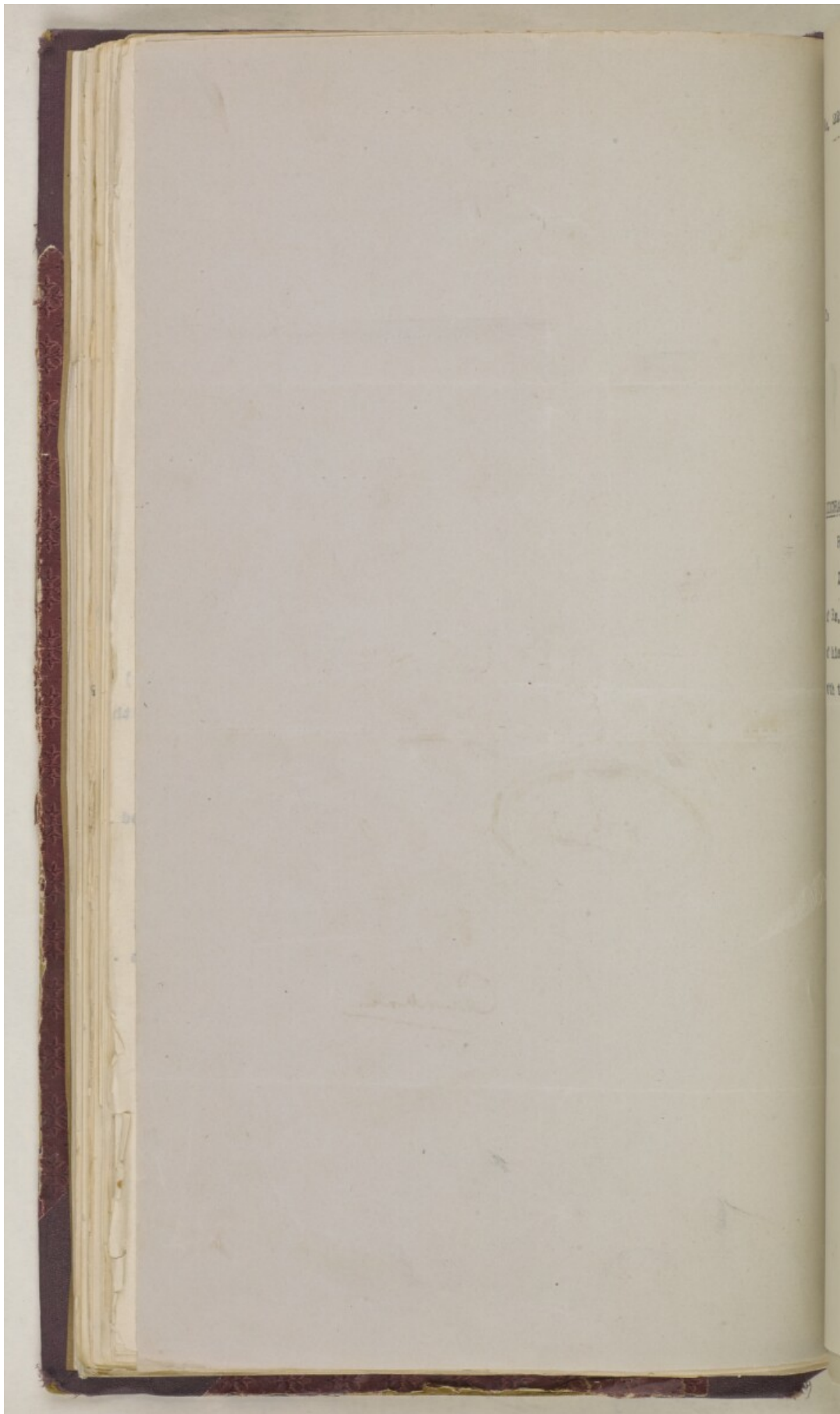
It is requested that the services of No. 460, Sub Assistant Surgeon Mohamed Eusuf Ali Khan Tabib, I.M.D., if he is willing to accept the appointment on the terms mentioned in this office memo. No. 398/2152-B, dated the 12th June 1924, may kindly be made available for employment under the Shaikh of Bahrain in connection with a Hospital Dhow, vice No. 1671, Sub Assistant Surgeon Muhammad Wasil Khan, I.M.D. who is not willing to accept the appointment and direct the former to apply for orders by wire to the Residency Surgeon, Persian Gulf, Bushire. His transfer documents may kindly be forwarded to this office in due course and information furnished as to the forenoon or afternoon of the date on which he is struck off military duty.

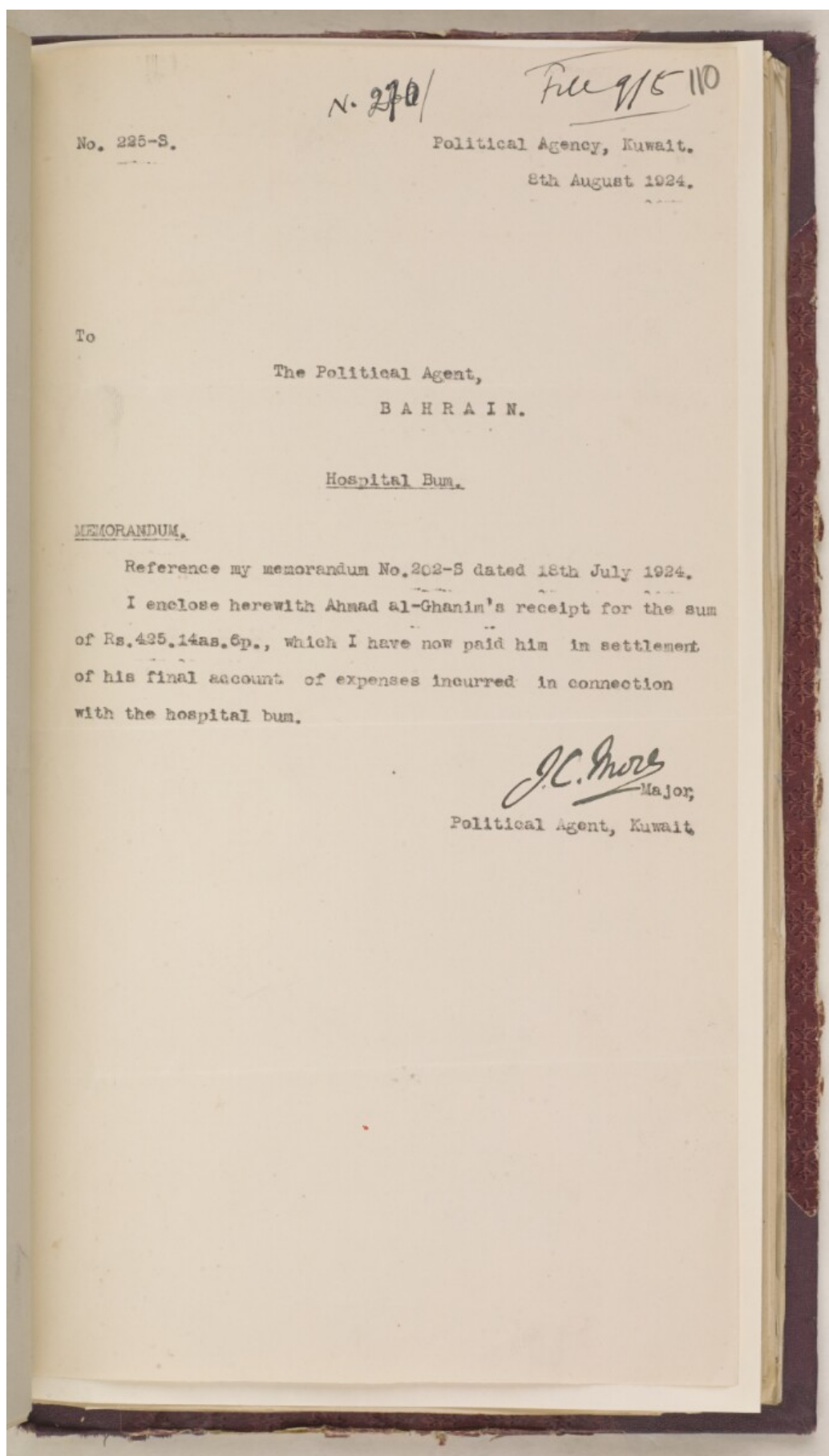
Sd. R.C. MacWatt.

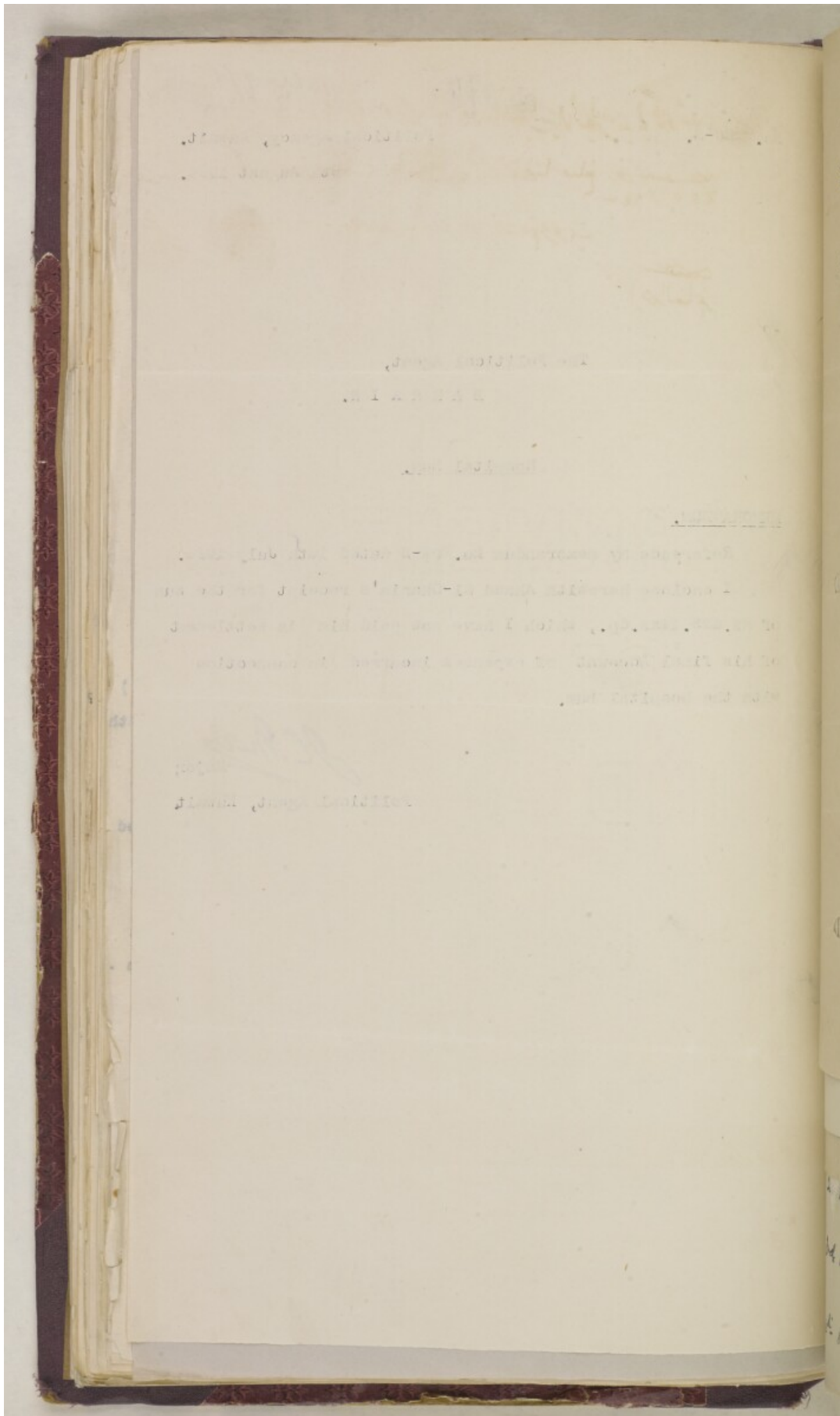
Major-General, I.M.S.,
Director General, I.M.S.

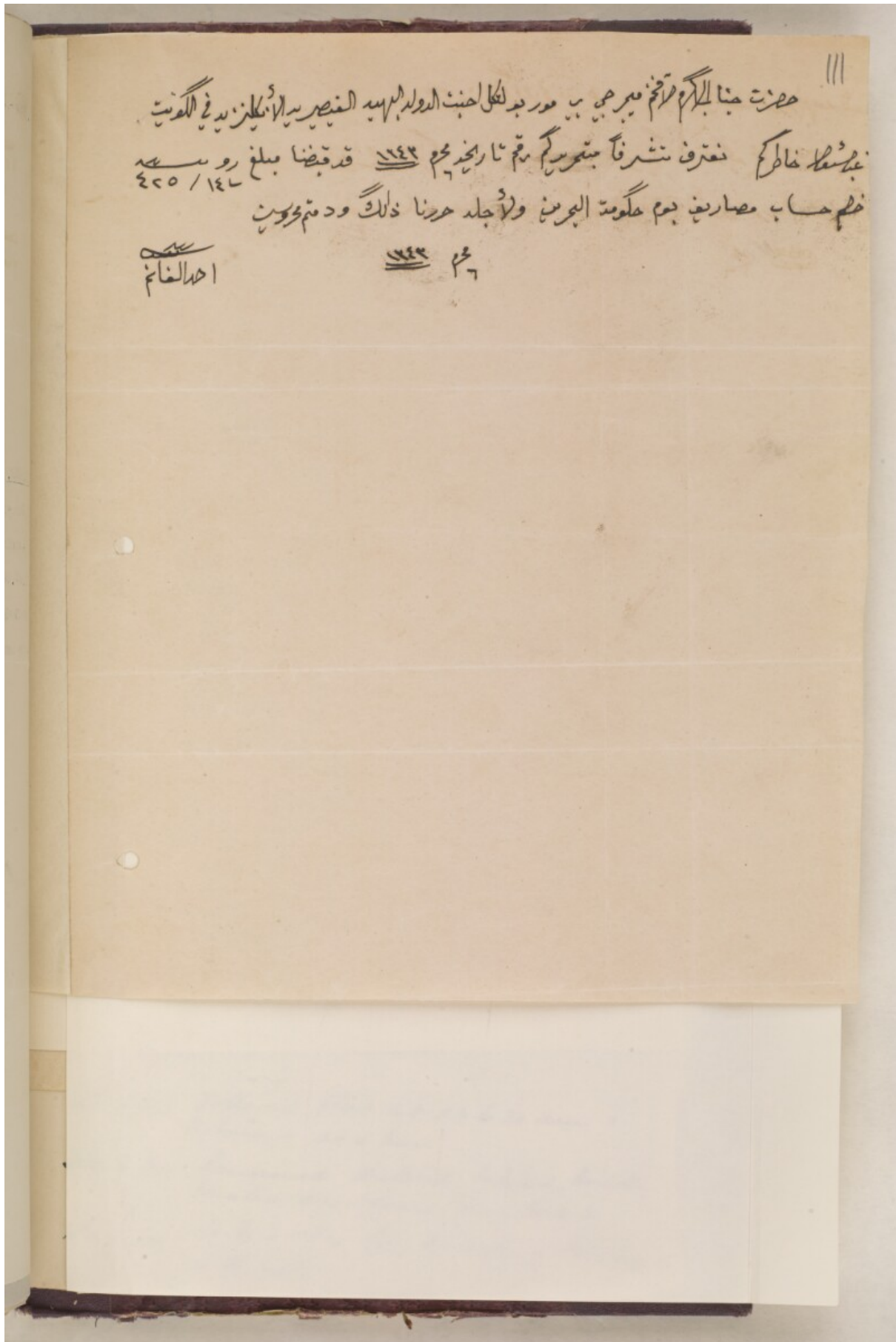


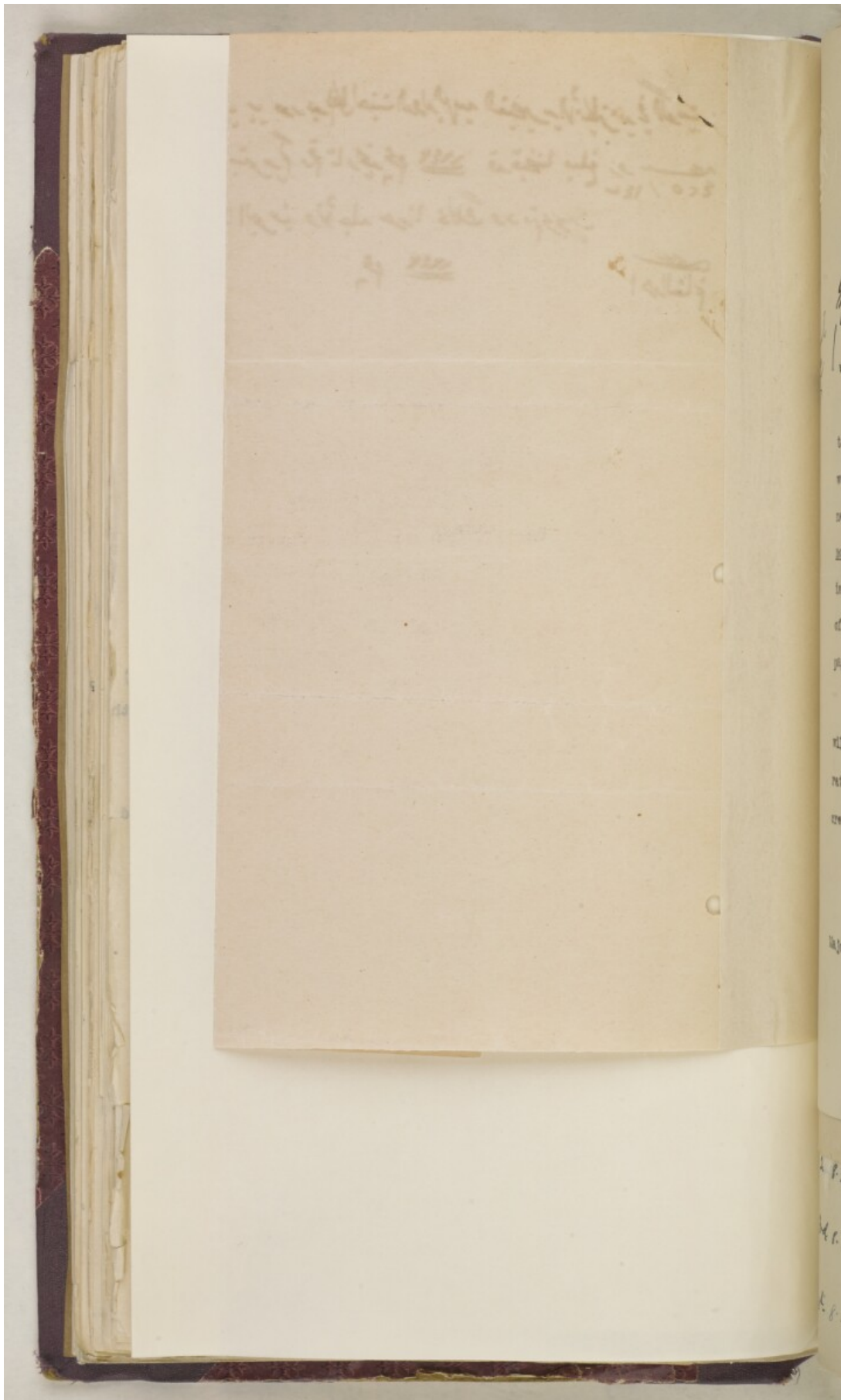


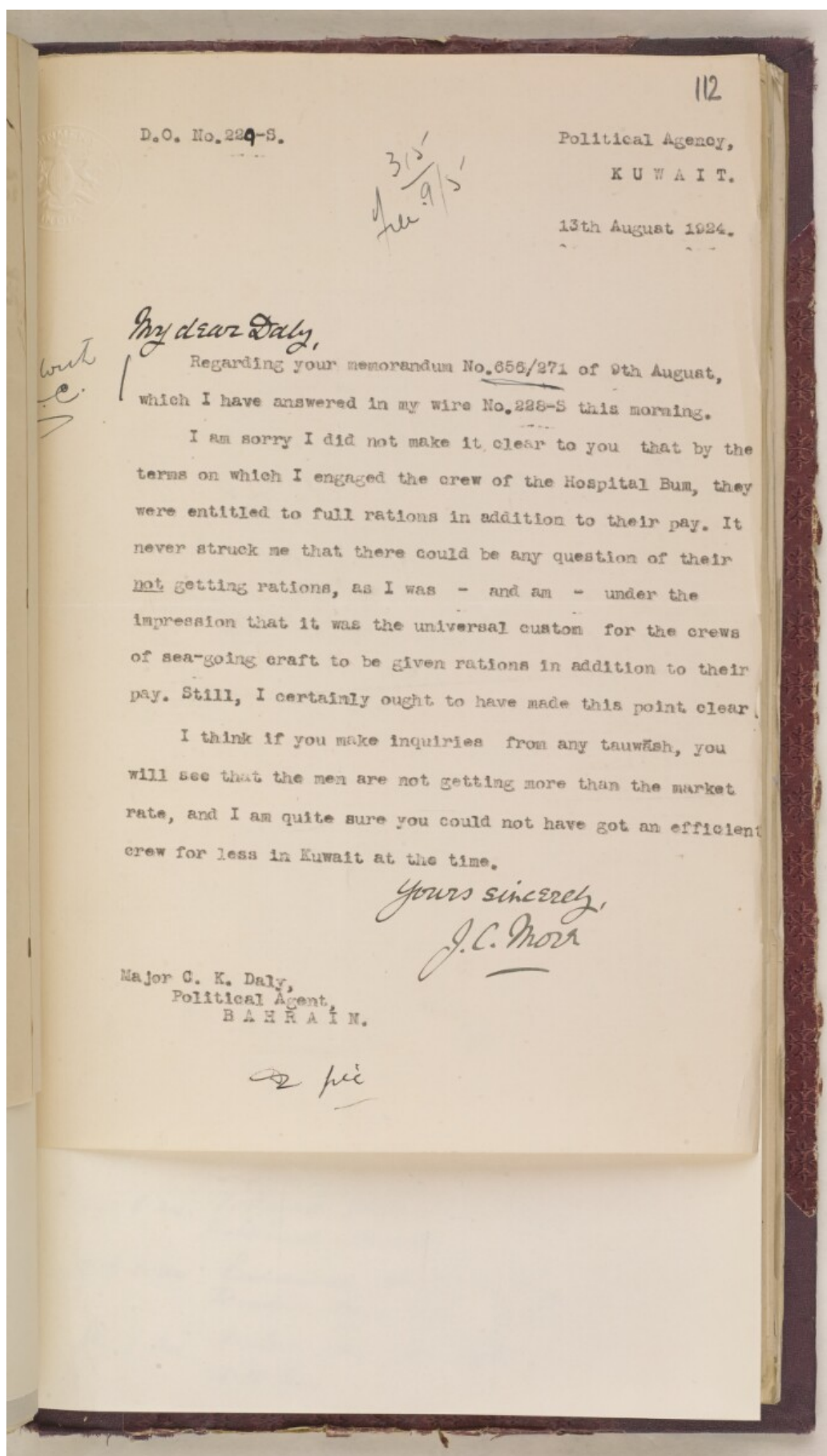


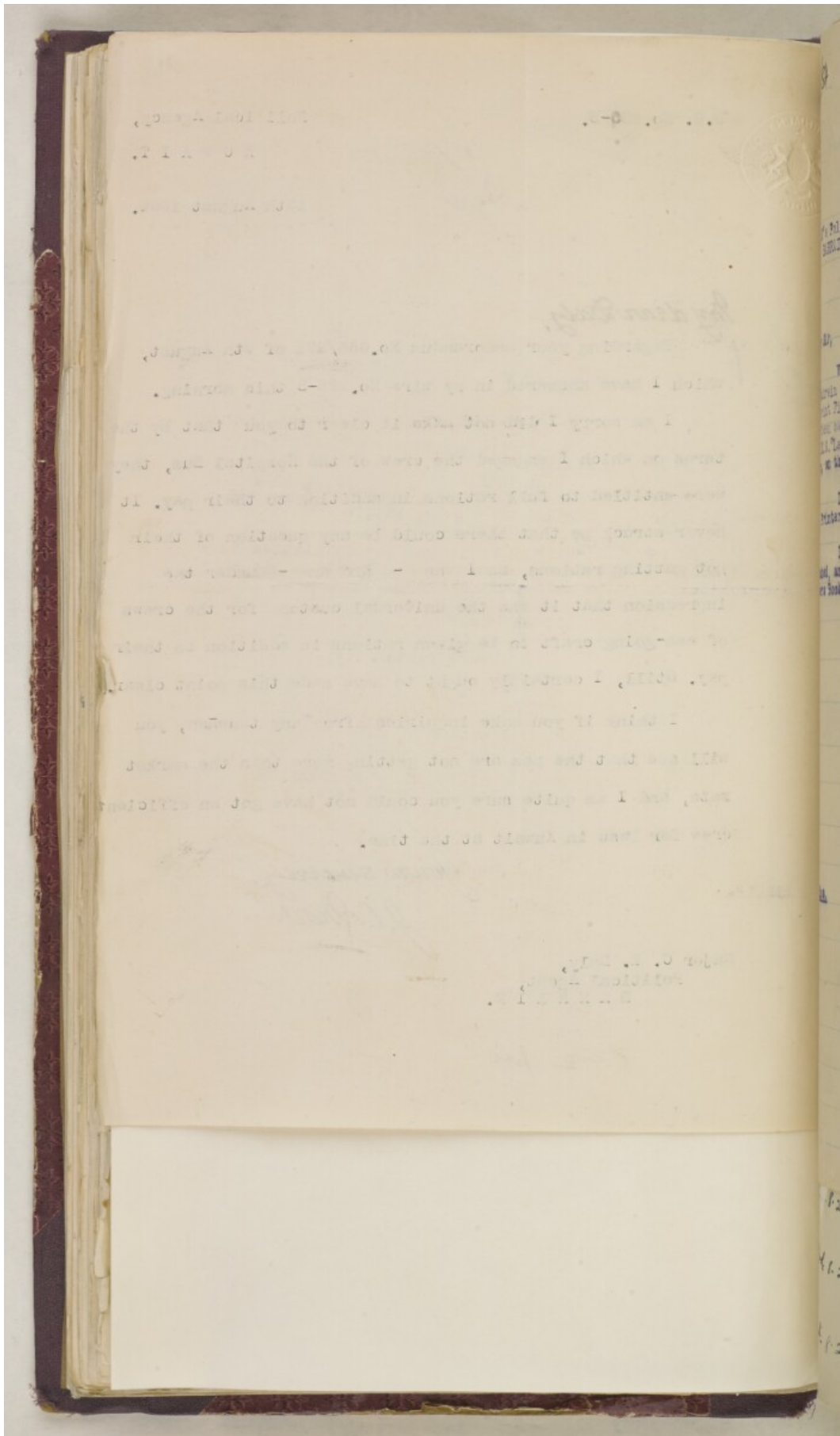


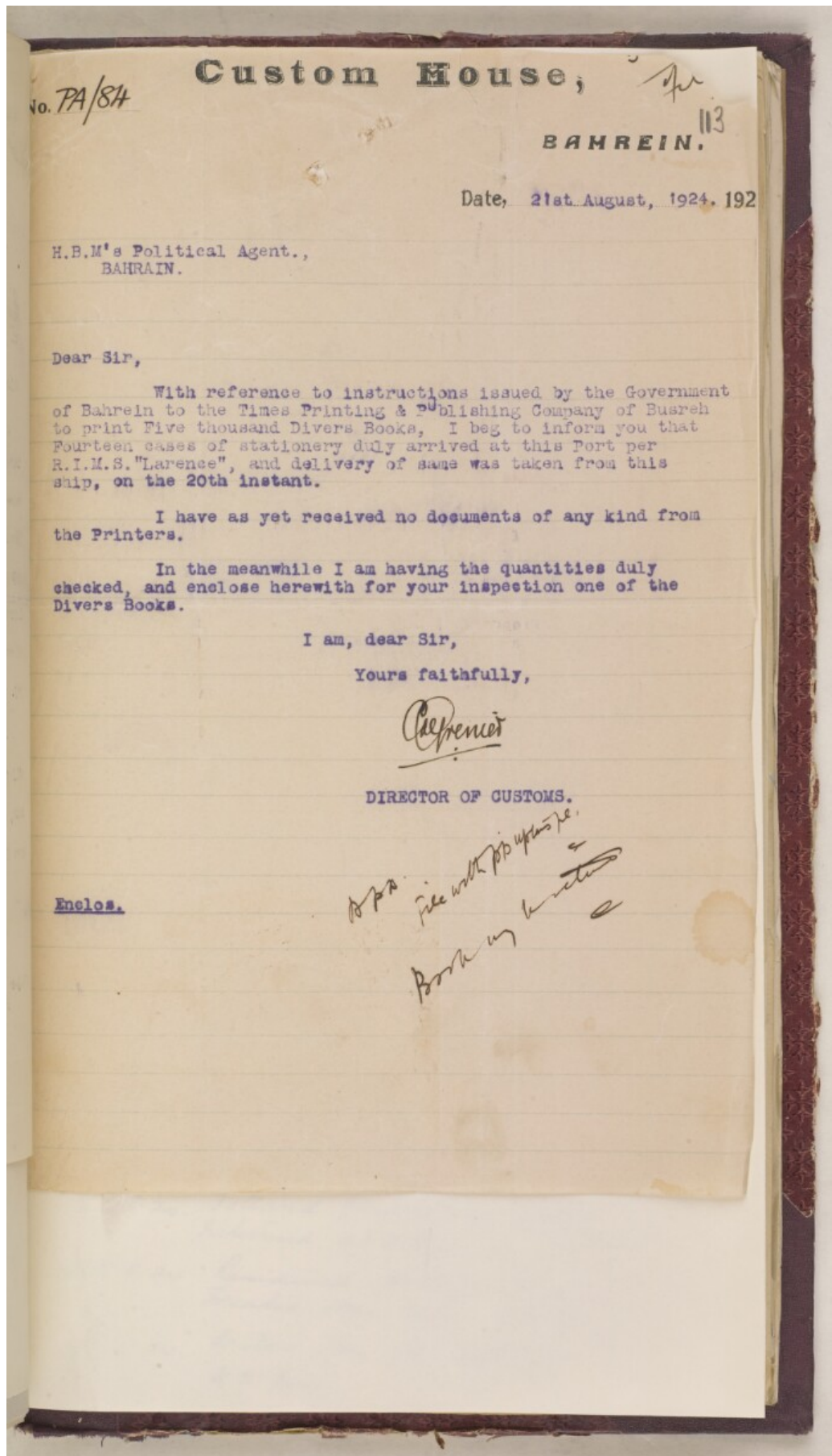


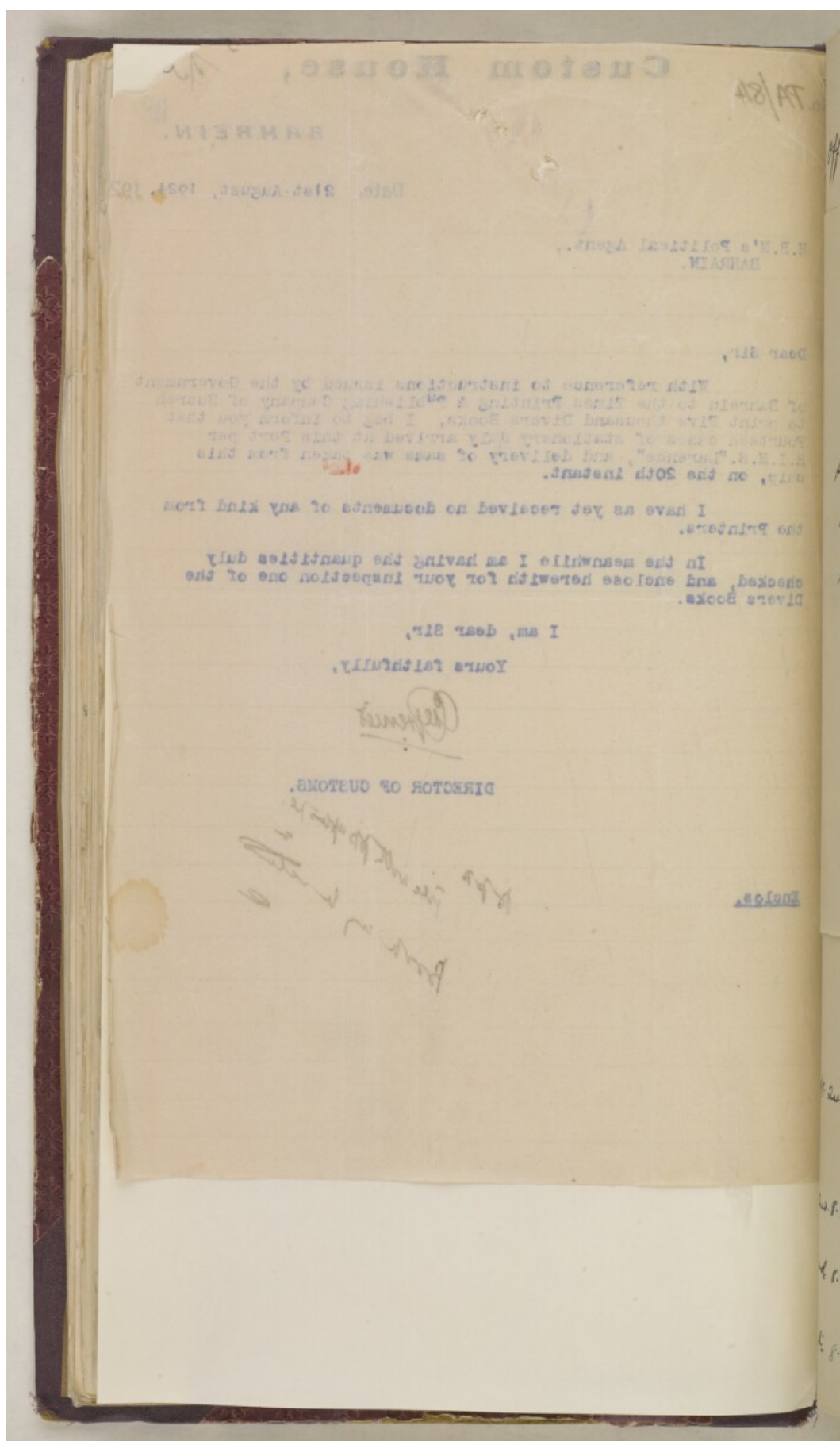


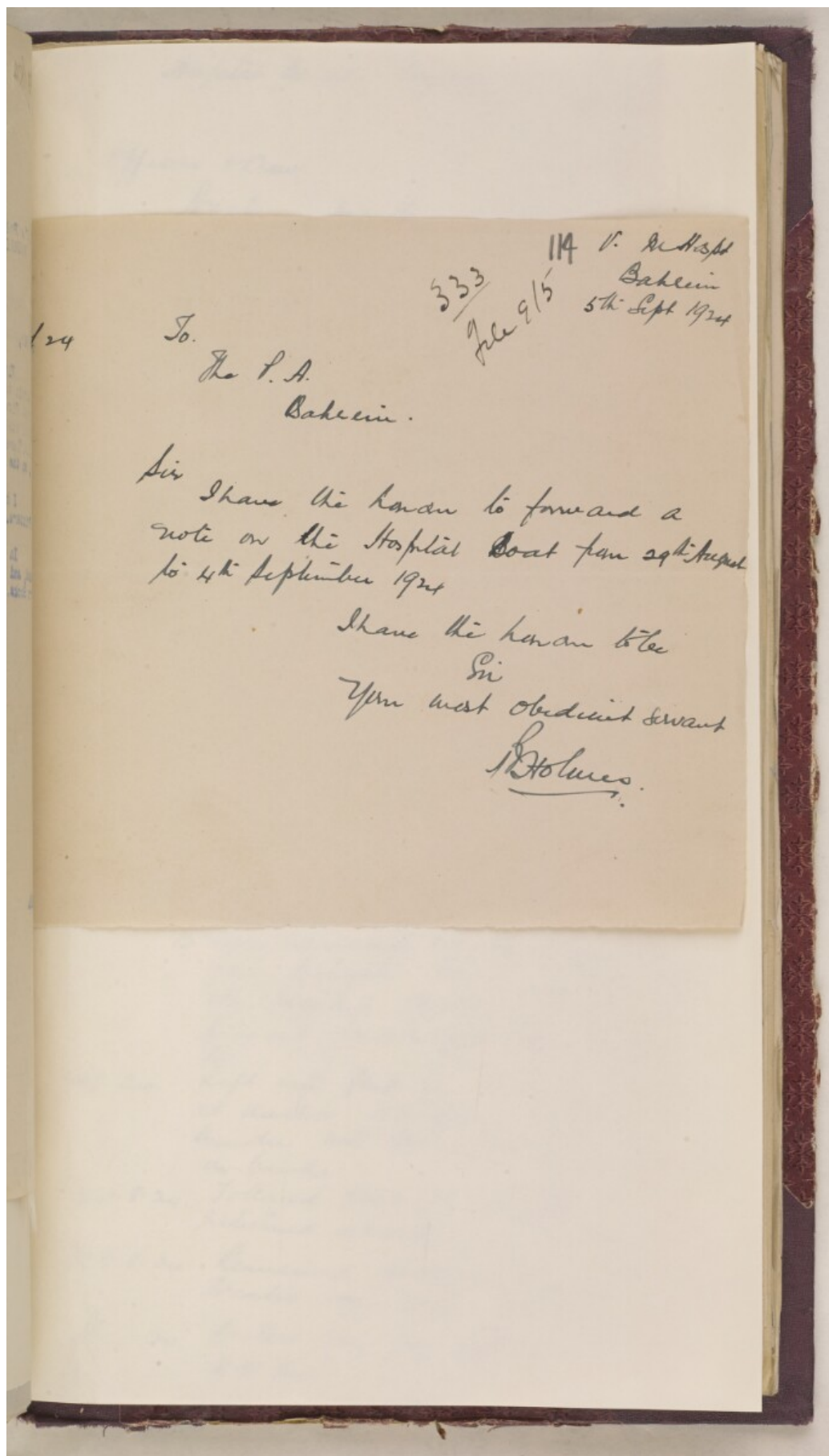


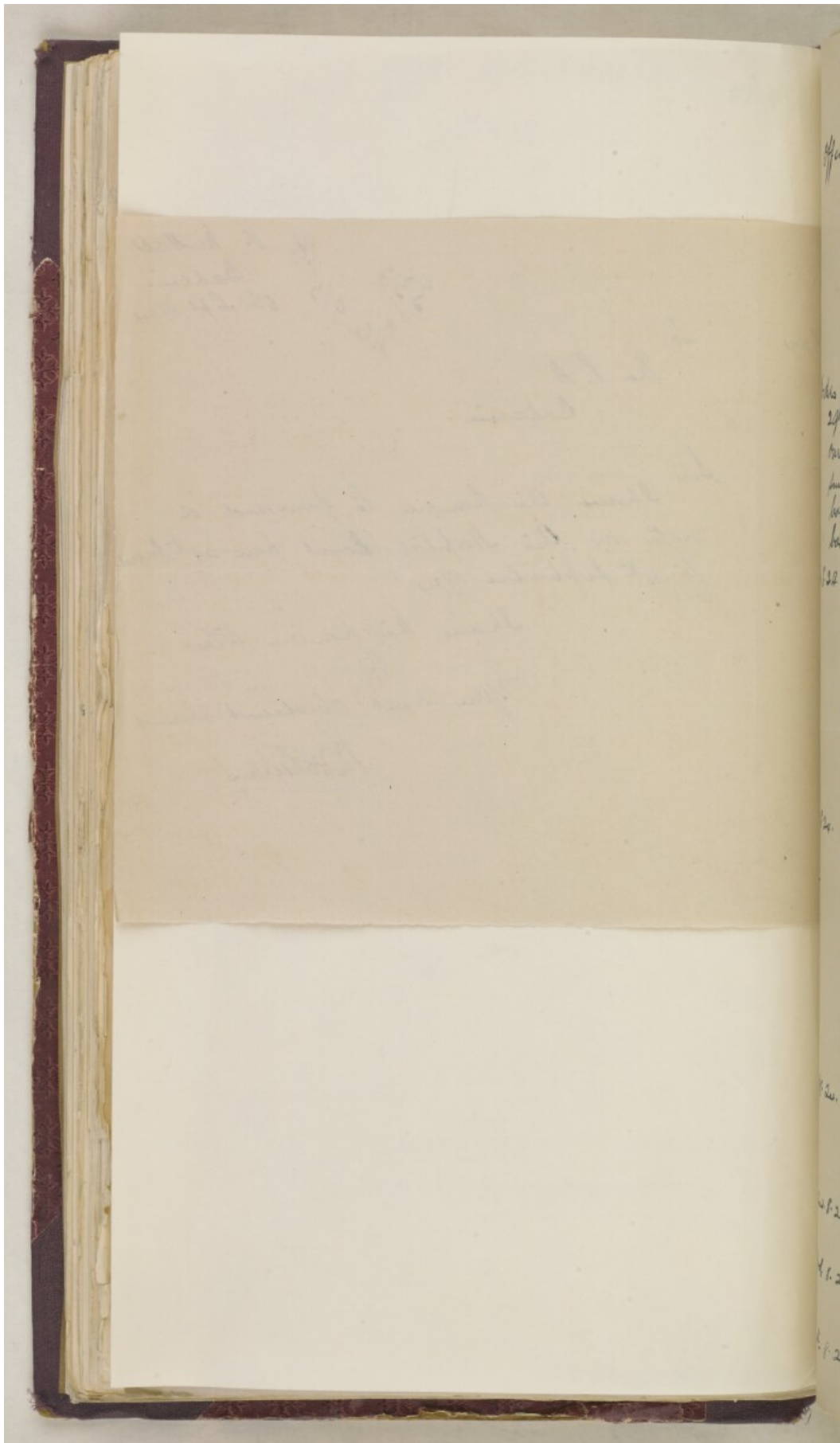














Hospital Boat. Voyage I.

115

Officers + Crew.

Doctors. No. 1/2.
Lacini & Mahomed Nakhoda.
Cumber M. L. Desser.
Sakani. - one.
Crew. - eight.

Orders to sail were given at 3.30 pm on
29th August 24. A delay of two hours
owing to one of the crew having been
sent to Makdiah to procure a small
boat. The boat sailed to the outer
bay and anchored for the night.

30.8.24. 4 am sailed for Shihyeh Bank
12 noon. Anchored near 1st part of
bank. Thirty three boats pearling.
attended the cases that came off.
4 pm. Sailed five miles further on.
6.30 pm. Anchored with 97 other boats.
Most of these changed position
for the night.

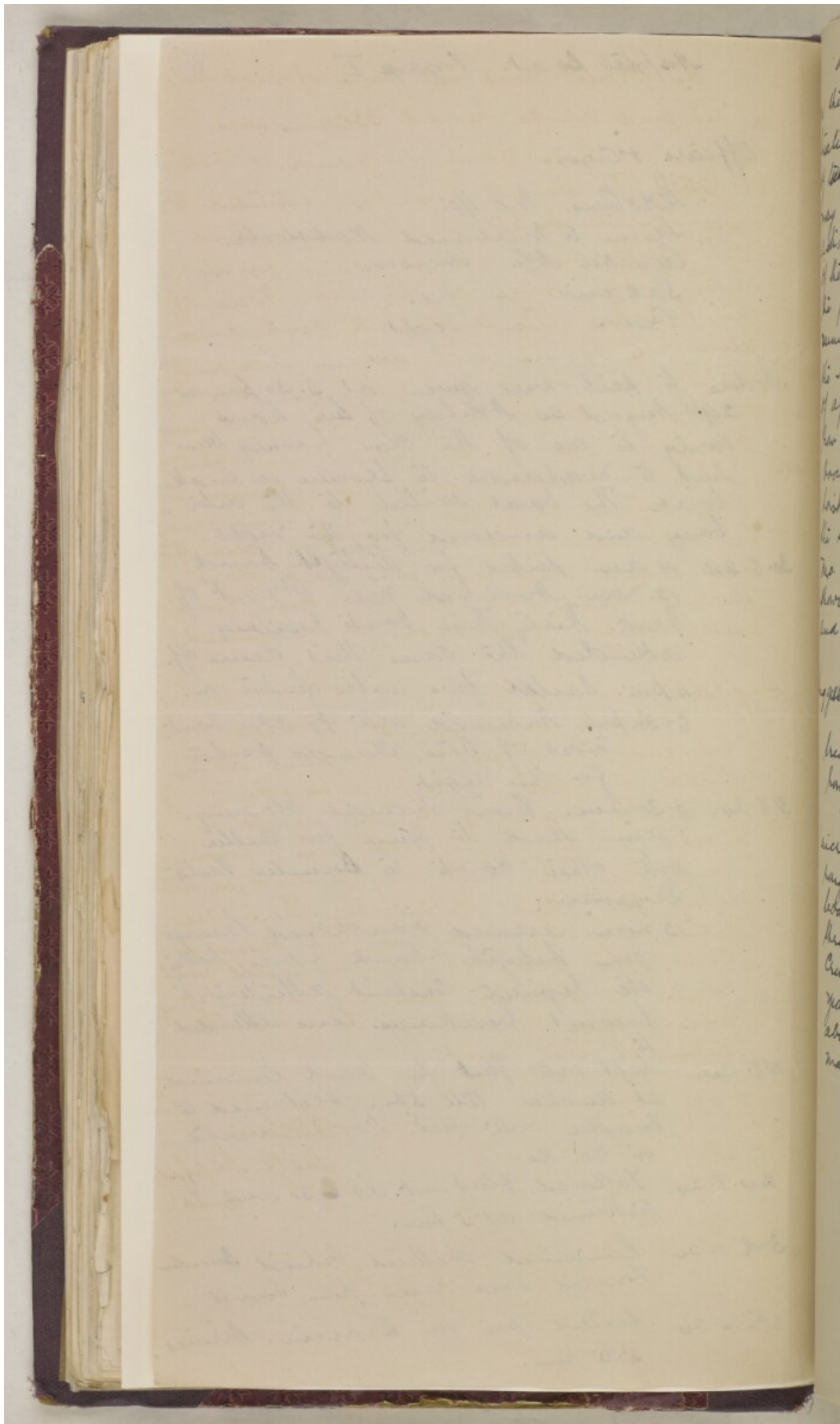
31.8.24. 3.30 am. Strong Shamal blowing.
8 am. Had to run for shelter
with other boats to Bandar Nakh
Diyarav.
12 noon. arrived & anchored. Passage
from Shihyeh bank rough, bottles
etc required constant attention to
prevent breakage. Cases attended
to.

1st. 24. Left with fleet for bank remained
at anchor till 5 pm & returned to
Bandar with fleet. No cases treated
in banks.

2nd. 8.24. Followed fleet out at 6.30 am &
returned at 5 pm.

3rd. 8.24. Remained sheltered behind Bandar
treated some cases from boats

4th. 8.24. Sailed 1 pm for Sakcin. Arrives
5.15 pm.





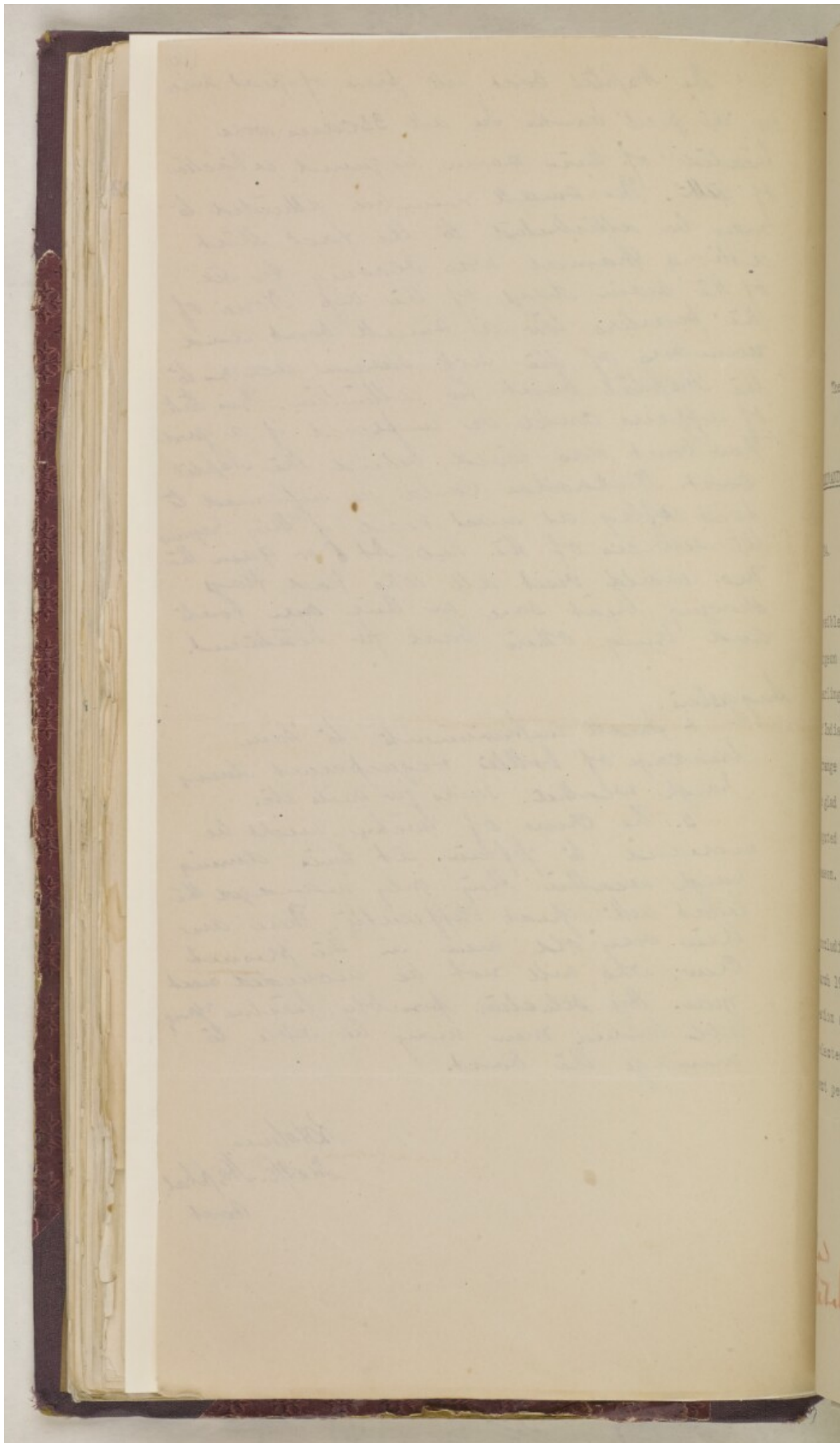
116

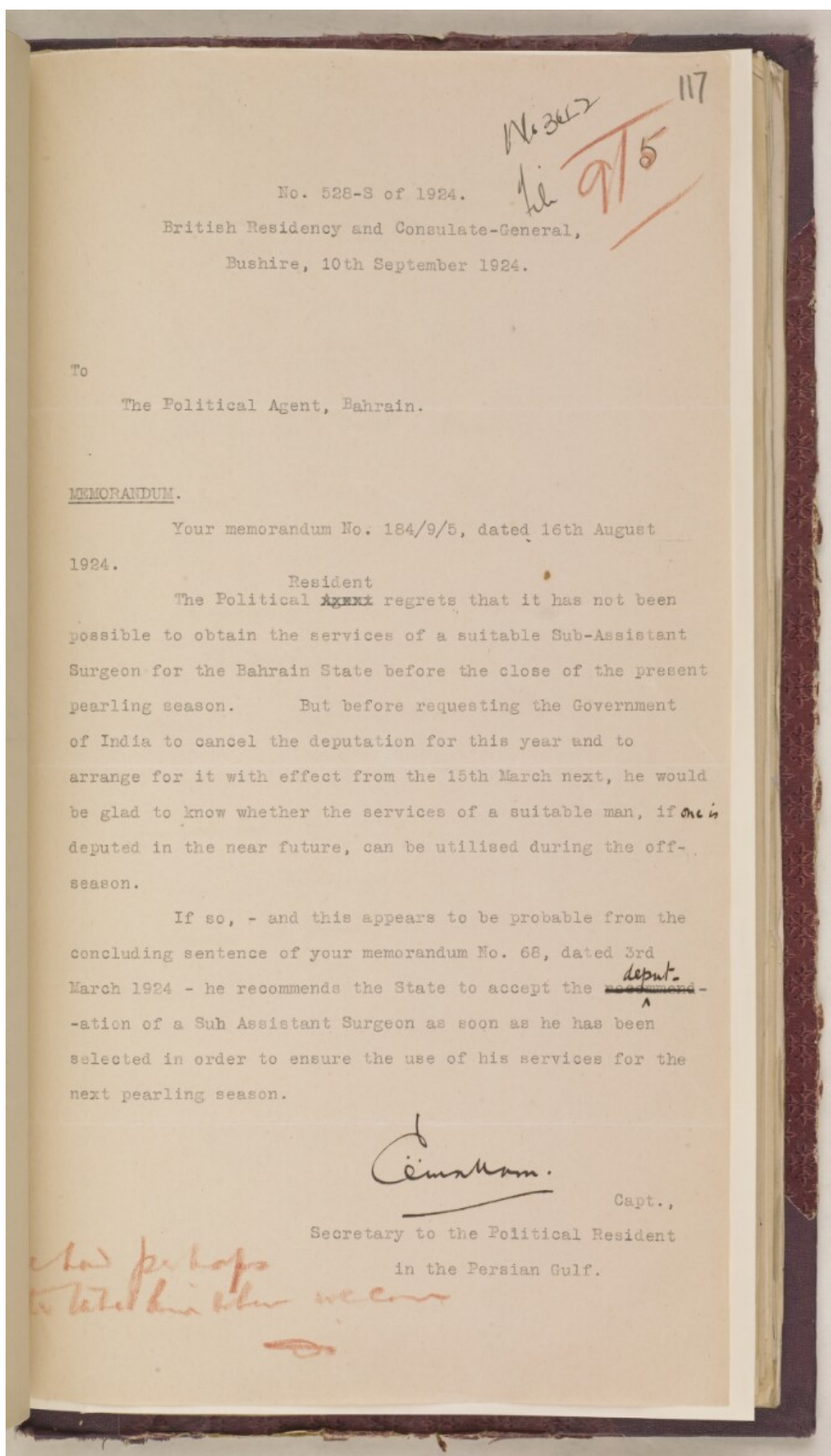
The Hospital Boat will prove of great service on the pearl banks. In all 33 cases were treated, of these seven required extraction of teeth. The small number attended to may be attributed to the fact that a strong Shamal was blowing for six of the seven days of the trip. None of the pearlers has a small boat, and numbers of the sick stream across to the Hospital boat for attention. This state of affairs could be improved if a good row boat was towed behind the Hospital boat. Nakhodas could be informed to hoist a flag at mast head if they require the services of the M.O. At 8 or 9 am the M.O. would visit all who had flags showing, treat some on their own boats and bring others back for treatment.

Suggestions.

1. Small improvements to save breakage of bottles & equipment during rough weather. Sacks for sails etc.
2. The crew of twelve might be increased to fifteen. At times during rough weather they only managed the boat with great difficulty. There are then very old men in the present crew, who will not be included next year. By selection possibly twelve young able bodied men may be able to manage the boat.

N. Holmes.
M.O. Hospital
Boat





No. 528-S of 1924.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th September 1924.

To

The Political Agent, Bahrain.

MEMORANDUM.

Your memorandum No. 184/9/5, dated 16th August 1924.

Resident
The Political ~~Agent~~ regrets that it has not been possible to obtain the services of a suitable Sub-Assistant Surgeon for the Bahrain State before the close of the present pearling season. But before requesting the Government of India to cancel the deputation for this year and to arrange for it with effect from the 15th March next, he would be glad to know whether the services of a suitable man, if one is deputed in the near future, can be utilised during the off-season.

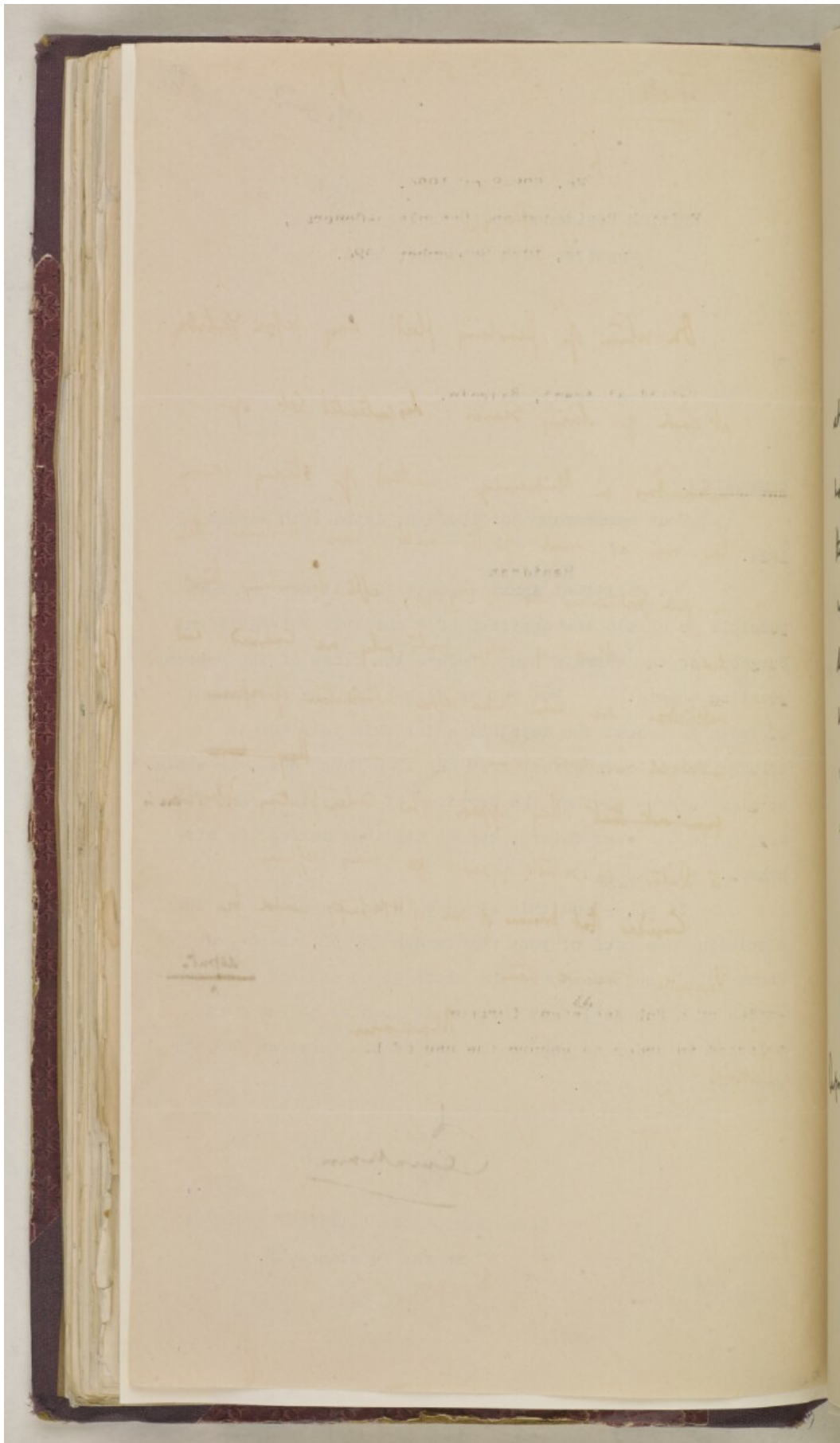
If so, - and this appears to be probable from the concluding sentence of your memorandum No. 68, dated 3rd March 1924 - he recommends the State to accept the ^{deput-}~~recommen-~~-ation of a Sub Assistant Surgeon as soon as he has been selected in order to ensure the use of his services for the next pearling season.

C. Cunningham.

Capt.,

Secretary to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf.

*what perhaps
to take him into account*





Telegram R. 986 19/5

118

Resident.

Bushire

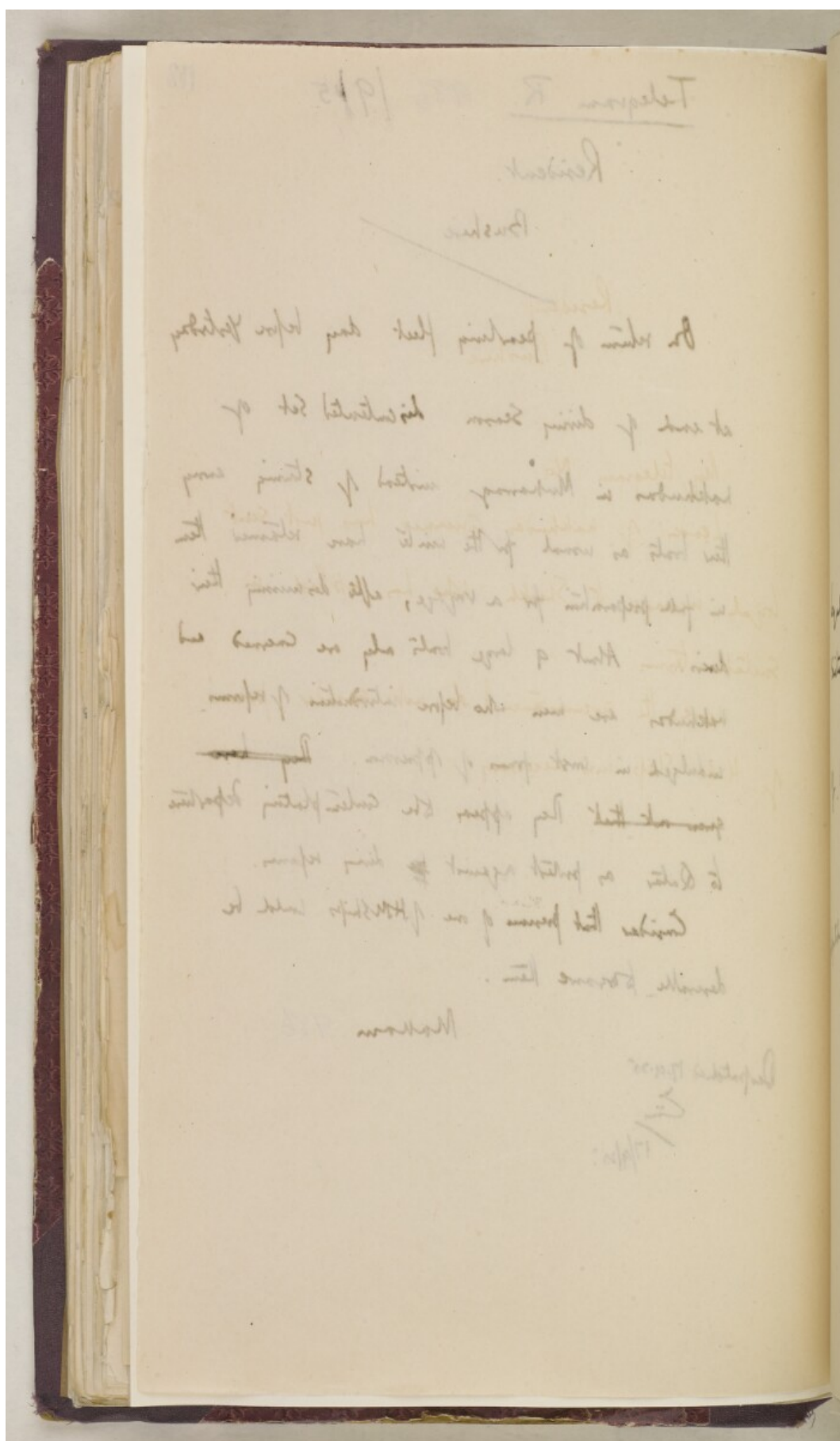
On return of pearling fleet day before yesterday
at end of diving season discontented set of
hakehudas in Muharraq instead of stowing away
their boats as usual for the winter have retained them
in full preparation for a voyage, after dismissing their
divers. About 9 large boats only are concerned and
hakehudas are men who before introduction of reforms
indulged in worst forms of oppression. ~~They have~~
~~given out that~~ They appear to be contemplating departure
to Qatar as protest against ~~the~~ diving reforms.

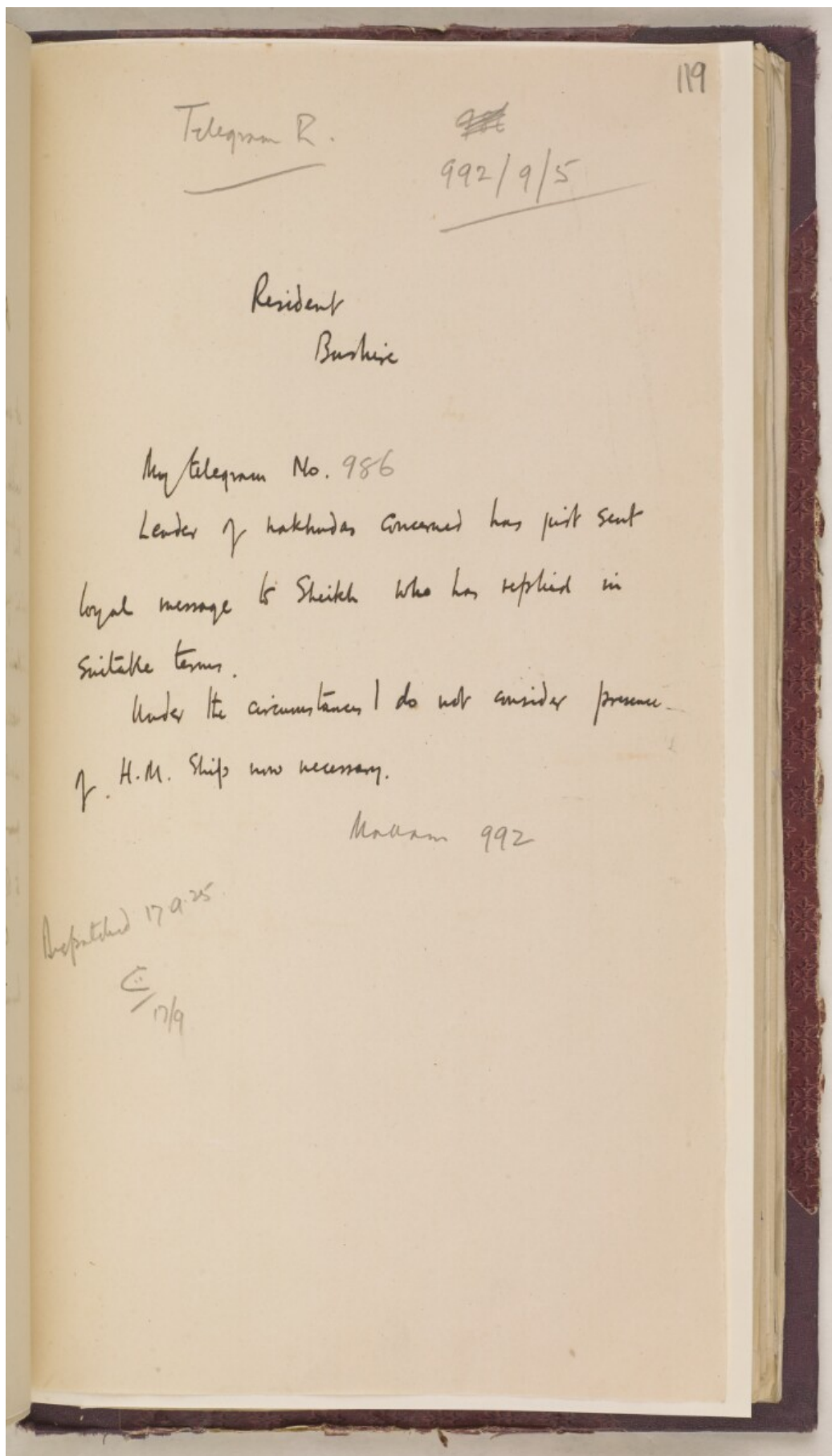
Consider that presence of one of HMShips would be
desirable to observe them.

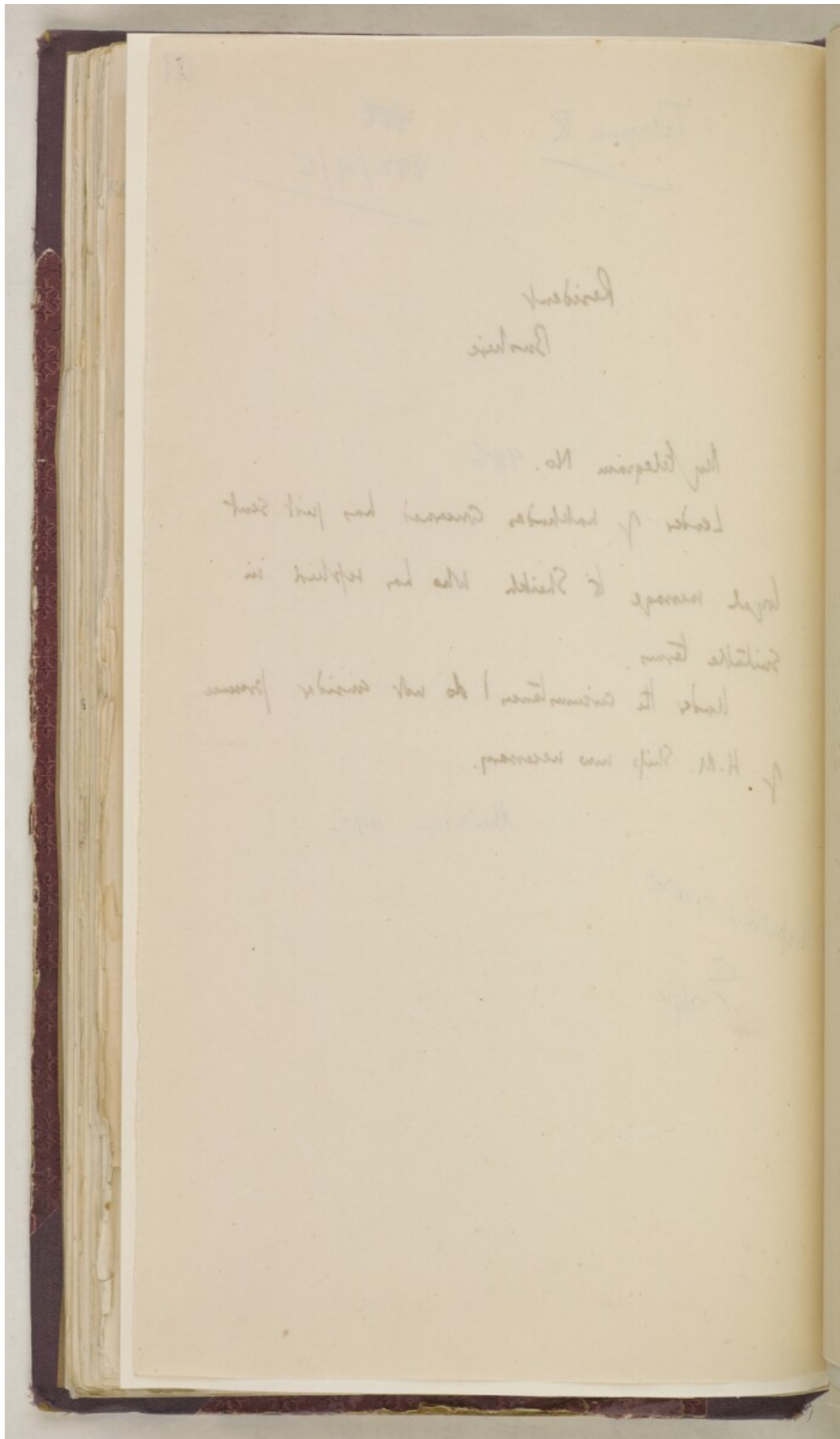
Mahom 986

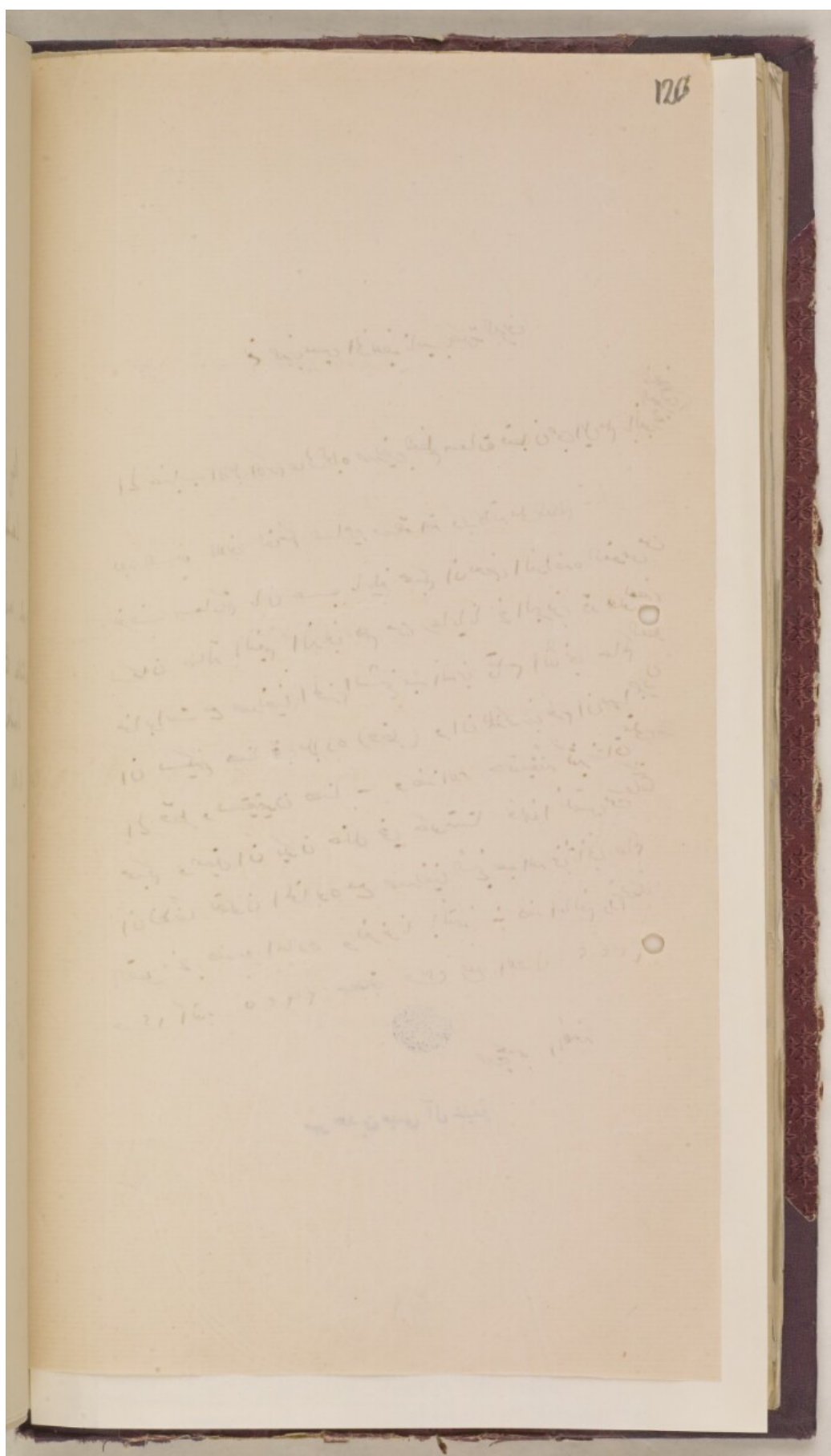
Despatched 17.4.25

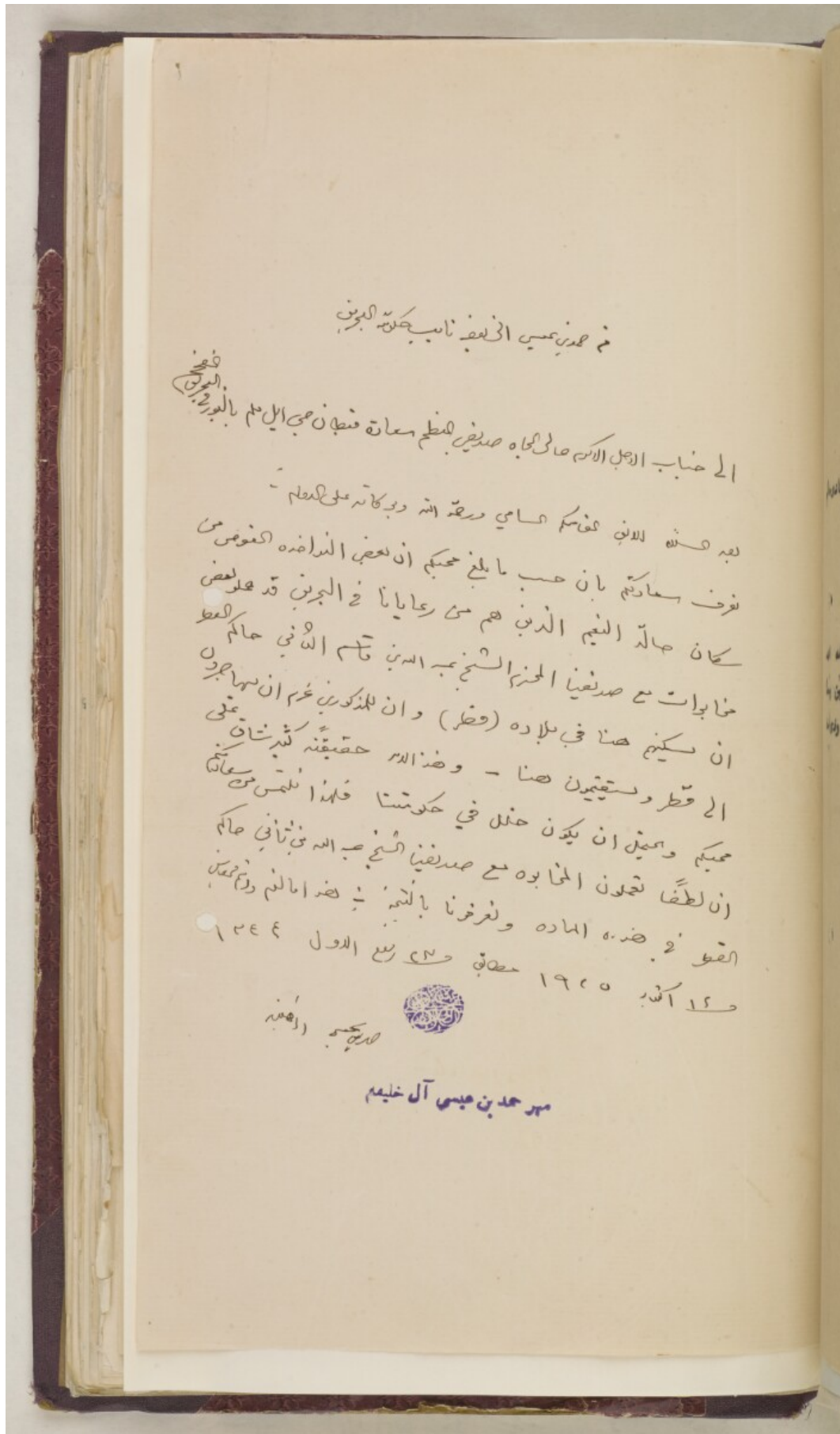
17/4/25













121

٣٢٧
١٩٢٥

بن قبطان جى ايل ميم با نيوز فى البحرين

ابى عهاب الاجى الاكبر الاحشم الاكبرم غنده الاصحاب سعادته الشيخ محمد بن قاسم الشادى حاكم
القطر الشيخ

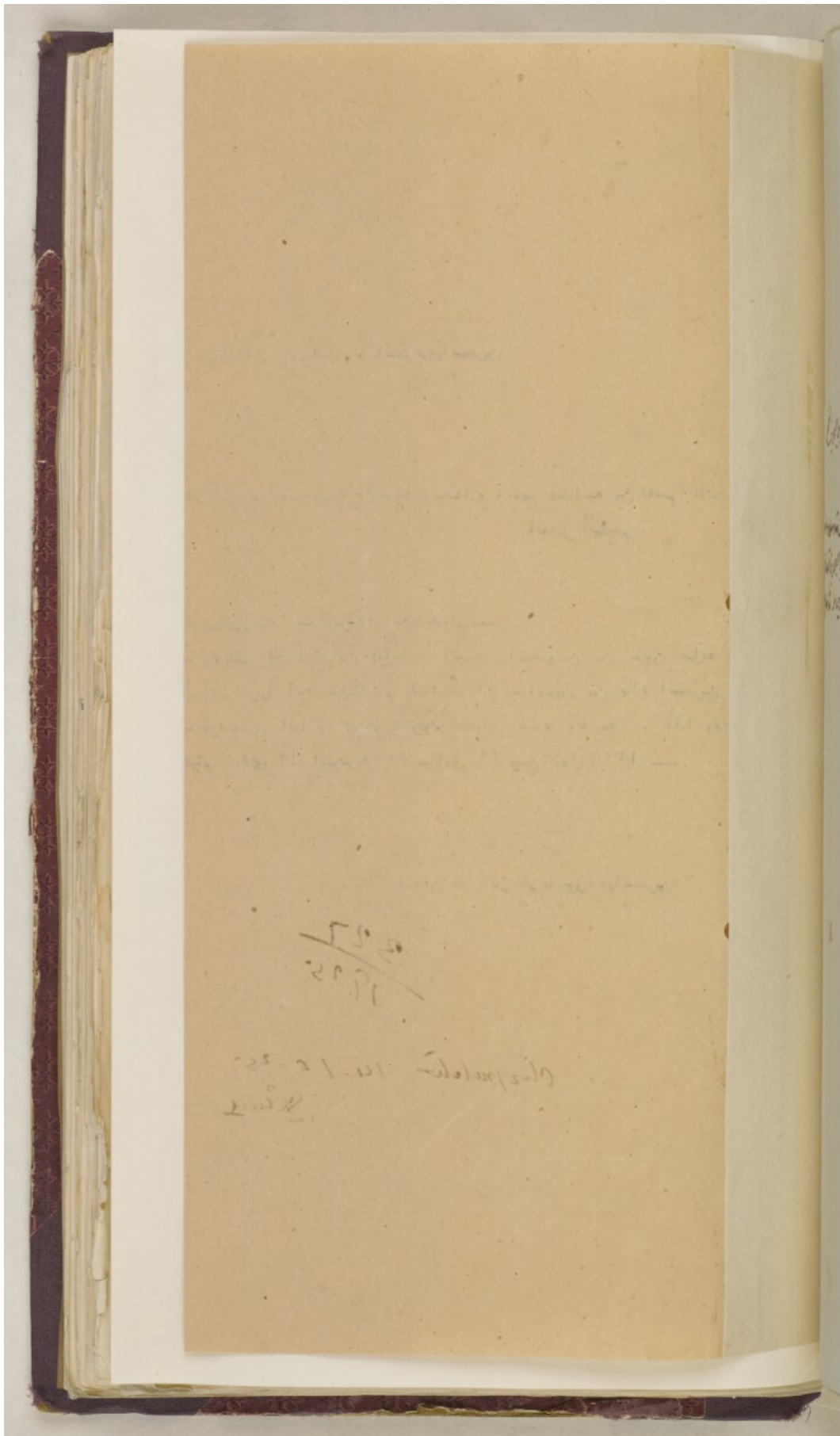
بمذ السلام الايق تهاكم اسماءى ورحه الله وبركاته بى ايدوام —
نصرف سعادتك بان قد بلغ منكم ان بعض من لواخذة الفوس المبروقين بن سكان حاله الله
الذ منهم من يرايا البحرين قد قاربوا الى سعادتك وقصدتم ان يهاجرون من بلاد البحرين ونسك
القطر — فبهذا منكم بغير سرور اذا سعادتك تصرونا حقيقة هذه انقيده — هذا وفى الخ
اقبلوا من محكم فائق الاحترام — فى ١٤ اكتوبر ١٩٢٥ مطابق ٢٦ ربيع الاول ١٣٤٤ —

١٤/١٥

قبطان جى ايل ميم با نيوز فى البحرين

327
1925

Chapala 14.10.25
Luna





122

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من عبد الله بن قاسم النابلي حاكم قطر

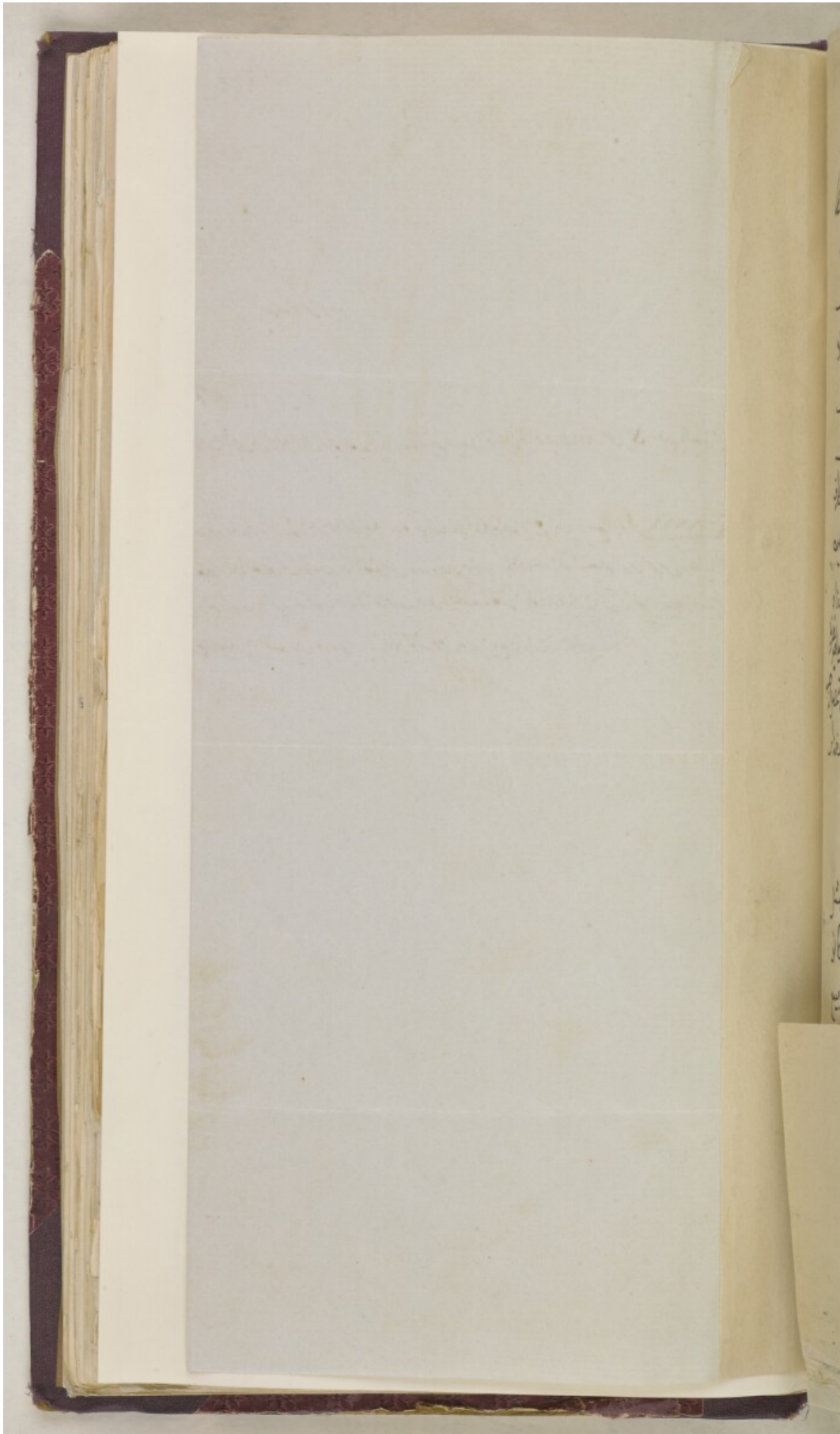
لجناب علي بن عبد الله بن محمد الكاظمي وشمس سادة الحاجه قبطان جي الى سليم باليون في البحرين

بعد السلام الاول بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم السبع الاول في بيان حالهم على الدوله كتابكم المكرم المؤرخ ٢٦ ربيع الاول ١٢٤٤ هـ
مصاديقهم معارضة لعموما لا سيما انه بلغهم ان بعض من تولى هذه القصور المعروفين من سكان حاله النعيم الذين هم من رعايا البحرين قصدتهم
يرتاجون من البحرين ويسكنون قطر ان مرام سعادتهم تعرفون هذه القضية وعن حقيقة ما اما اننا نحن الآن لم يصير عندي من
ولا حقيقة هذه المرام ومراها بيد من اللازم نصير به ممنوعين ودمتم المنيح ٢٨ ربيع الاول ١٢٤٤ هـ

20/10

From Sheikh of Qatar

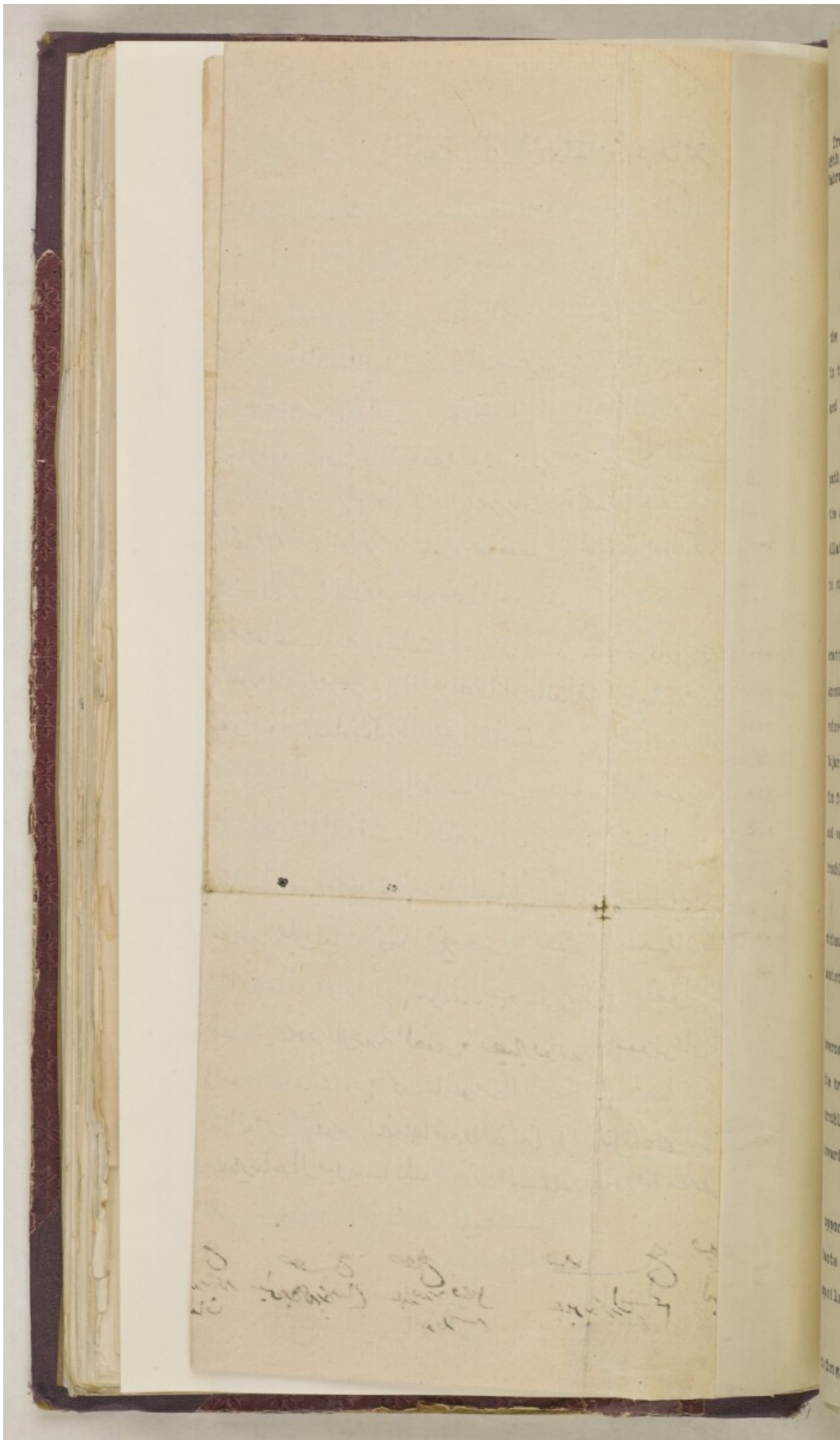
re Mukhadhar of Halat Ma'ani

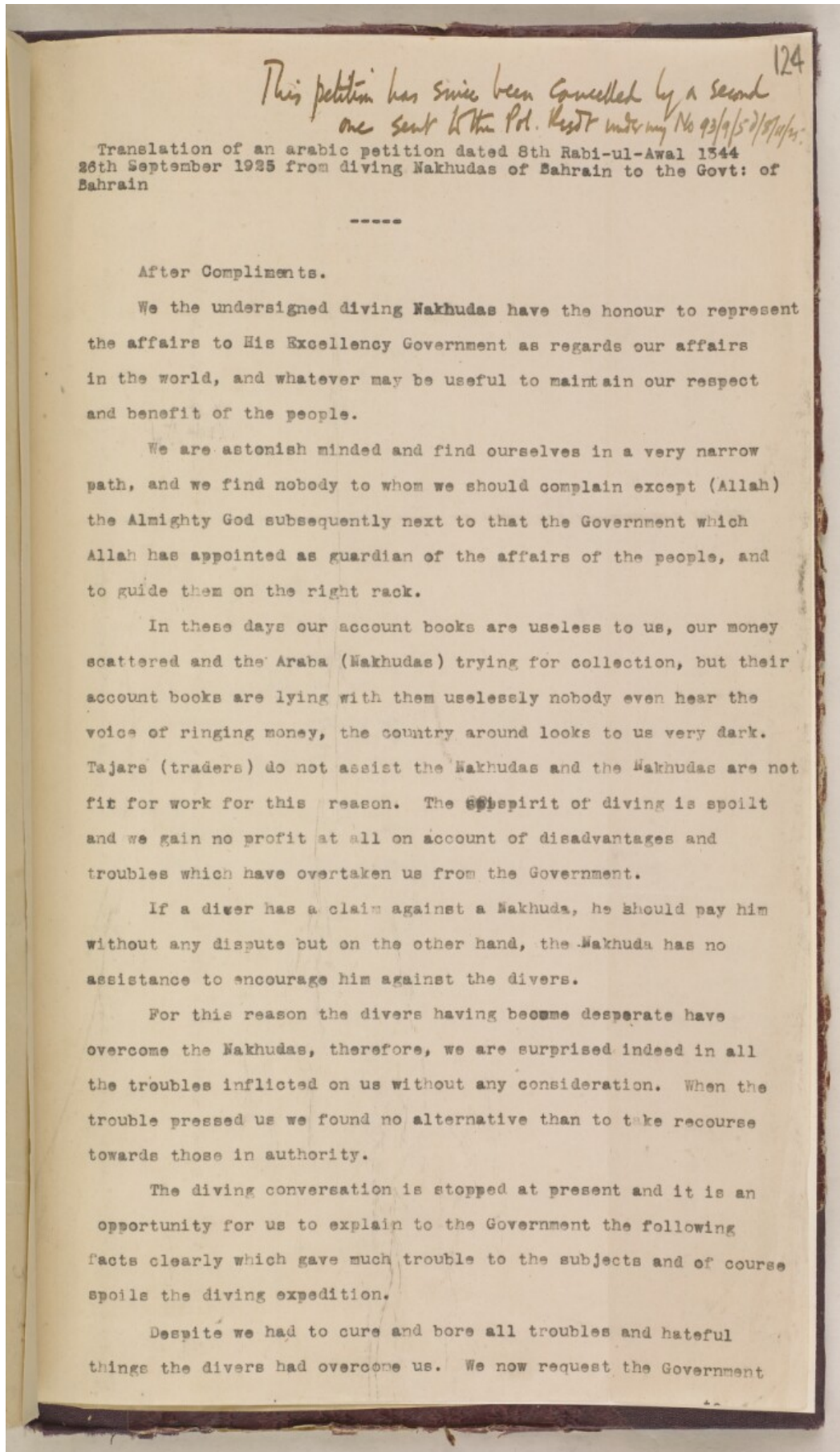


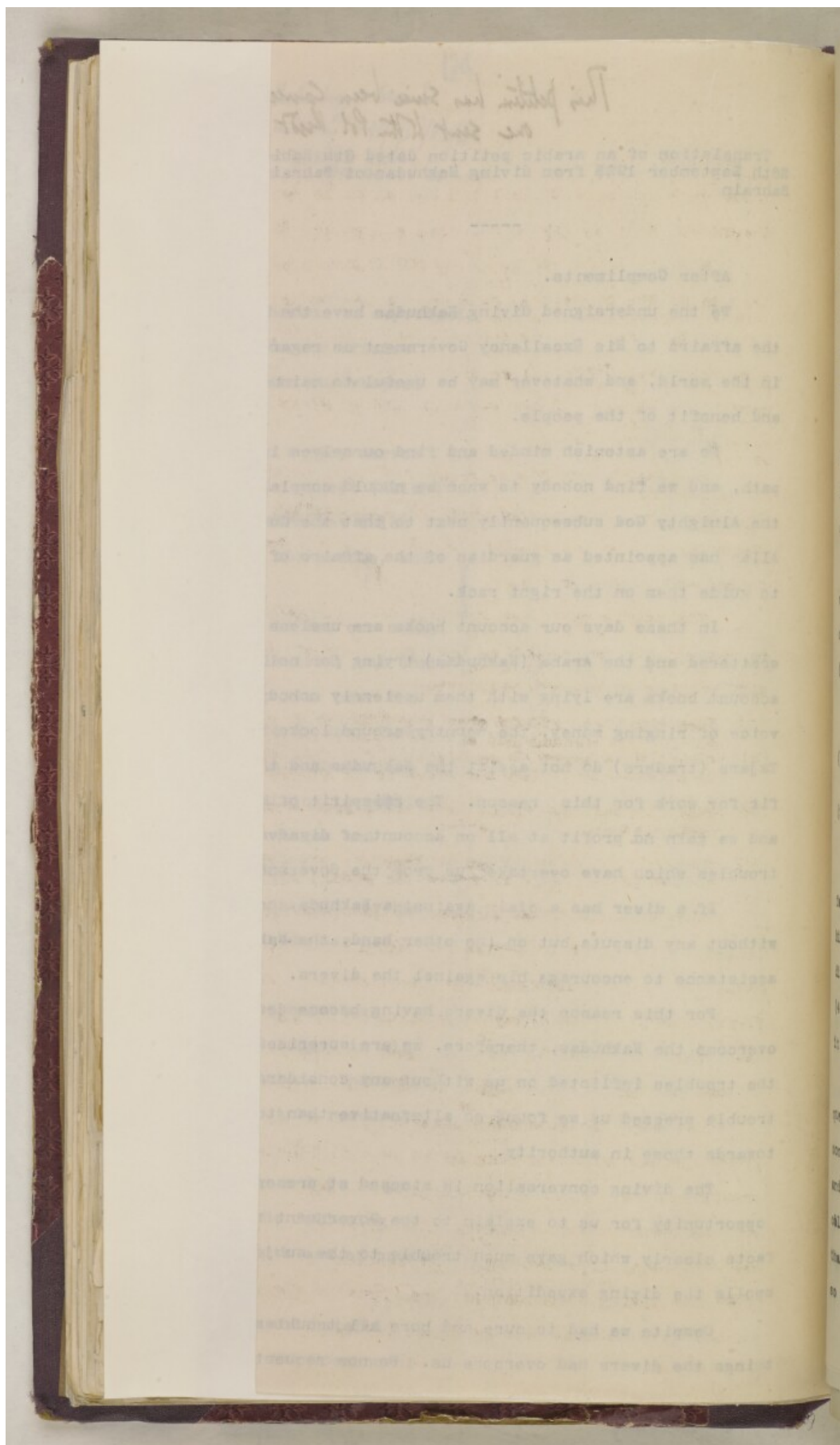
بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

في الحكومة فافقتا في مقدار الاربعين عينا من كل صنف من السلع التي هي في السوق
سابقة ببيعها بمعدل بشرط ما للوزير عليه من خالص بيع القماش وغيره الا باع النخعة من كل الناجم فلا يبيع حقان ينقص البيع وانما في
مئة نفا النخعة من كل صنف منهم وكلما كان في النخعة العشر لا يمكنها فلم يبيع بدلا من الا انه ما لم اذ اجزم النخعة من البيع على شرط ان يعطى لا ابيع
وهو معلوم له بغيره ولا يمكن نفع النخعة بغيره بدلا من الا انه يستخير فيه ويخير في طوعه ويجبره على نفعه العشر ويبيع نفعه البكر منصرف على البيع
من بيع القماش وغيره واذا كان في البيع عينا وله حسابا ويحضر عليه النخعة فاذا اذرع عمل النخعة من النخعة من عند الحكومة والحق ما خذ من الطرف فيعاد احنا شرعهم
ويطلب الحكومة من جبرها ان تسهل لنا المسألة ونزعم علينا جهة المطلوب وهو صلاح العامة الناس والحكومة لا يضرها من ذلك الكثرة بل تفعل جميل في اعياها
ويشكرها الزنج والنخعة من الناجم ولا يكون كذا امرها احنا في انتظار عند الحكومة لا يصير لنا حال قبل تسائلنا هذه المسألة فنعلم اننا نعلم
ما ذكرنا من السلوكات لو كانت من الحكومة ساعدنا لما فيه صلاح العالم كله وفي احسن النظر عذرهم ببيع اول سنة

[illegible]









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to mercifully consider the question and remove the cause of troubles which already befallen us, as it is not hidden from the Government that we get no business except the diving.

Therefore the confusion in the diving shall be greatest trouble to the subject as well to the merchants, diving crews and the Nakhudas, as the diving equally concern everybody even the shop-keepers. Therefore we are requesting the Government to mercifully remove all the troubles and to allow us to resume our previous diving system.

As regards the diving crews and the Nakhudas in diving service, the divers should obey the Nakhudas and not to refuse his order and if the divers did any wrong the Nakhudas should be authorised to punish him.

The above mentioned troubles have already overtaken us, but we request the Government to mercifully renew the following difficulties at present within us.

- (1) That the diver should obey the Nakhuda on the sea and land and if the Nakhuda did anything wrong to him he (diver) should be allowed to complain of it, but the Nakhuda should be allowed to punish the diver if he disobeyed by the diver.
- (2) That the Nakhuda should have the power to arrest the absconded diving crews.
- (3) That if the diver failed to keep his promise, the Nakhuda should be entitled to arrest and punish him.

The Government has already decided that in case the diver failed to keep up his promise the Nakhuda should complain against him. It is very difficult for the Nakhuda to do so during the diving season as his delay on shore would cause him monetary loss.

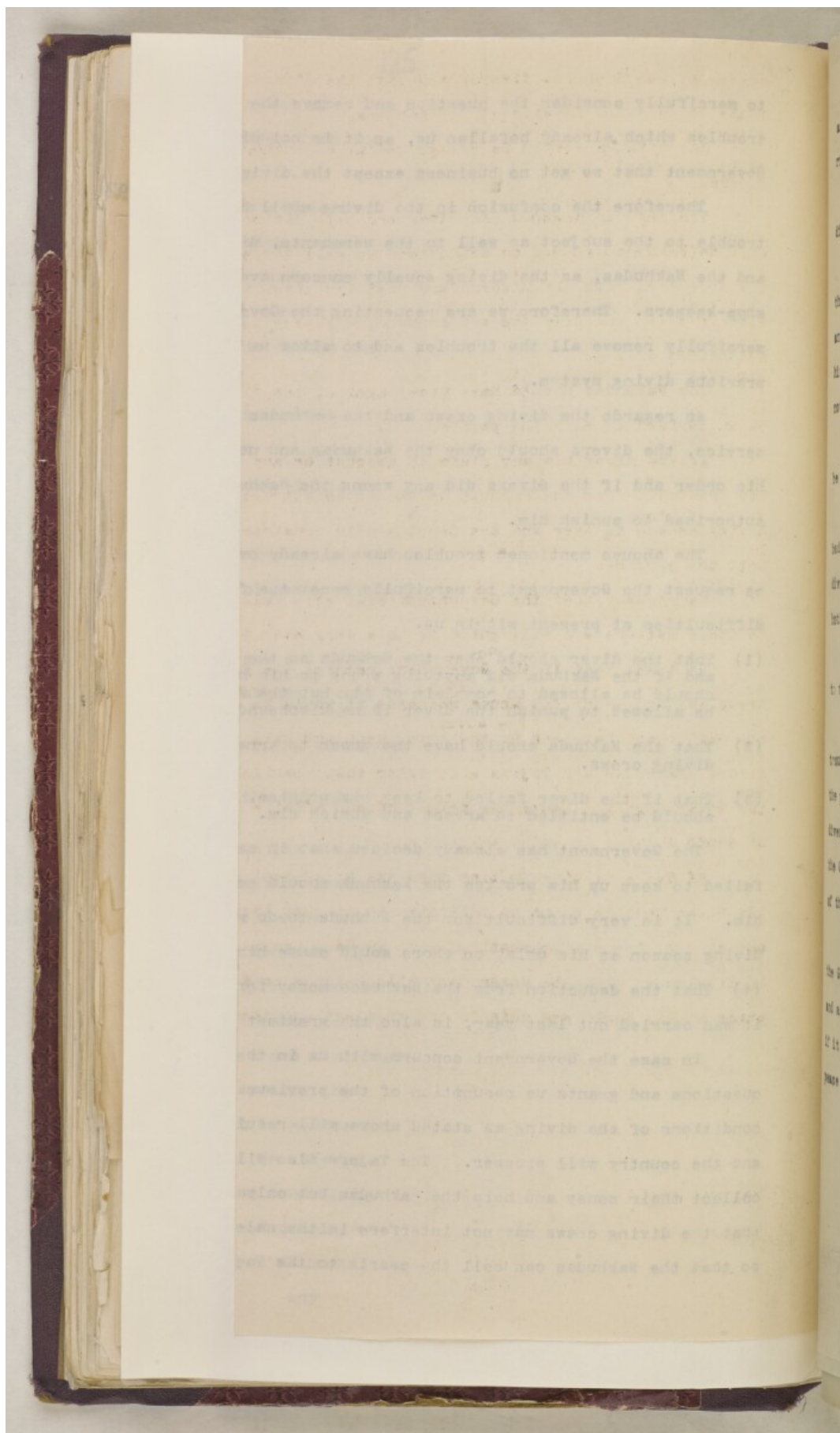
- (4) That the deduction from the Nakhudas money for the diver as it was carried out last year, is also the greatest trouble to us.

In case the Government concurs with us in the above mentioned questions and grants us resumption of the previous system, the conditions of the diving as stated above will result in goodness and the country will prosper. The Tajers also will be able to collect their money and help the Nakhudas but only on condition that the diving crews may not interfere in the sale of pearls, so that the Nakhudas can sell the pearls to the Tajers without

any



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[125v] (269/434)





126

any objection from the divers, and that the diver should have no right to cancell the sale of the Nakhuda.

The Nakhuda should be recognised as an authorised agent of the divers.

The Nakhuda engages the diver and pays him money on condition that he(Nakhuda) should be authorised to sell the pearls without any objection from the divers, and that the diver should serve him (Nakhuda) and obey him and compel the divers that they should not refuse diving.

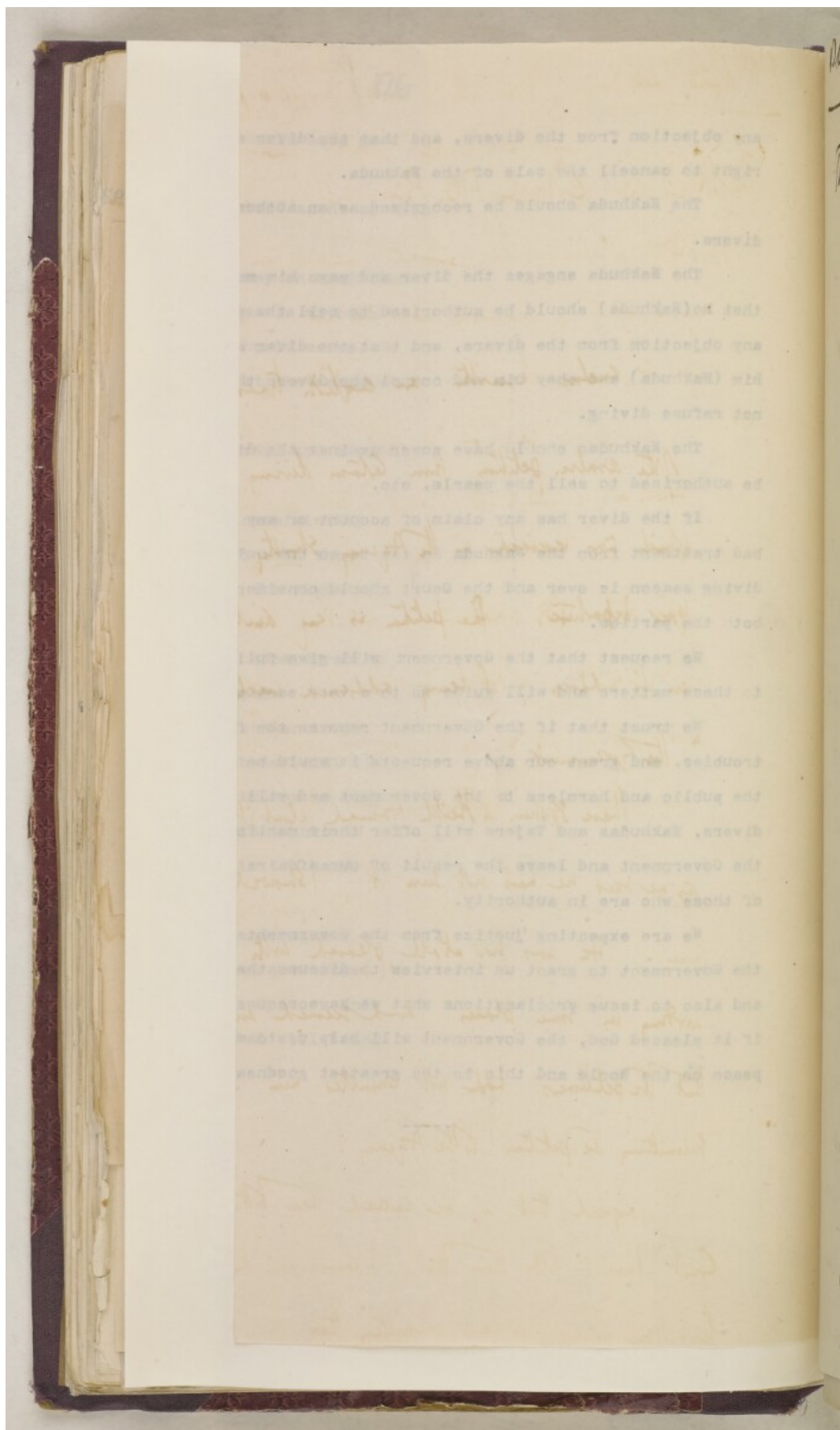
The Nakhudas should have power against the diver, and should be authorised to sell the pearls, etc.

If the diver has any claim of account or any complaint of bad treatment from the Nakhuda he can do so but only when the diving season is over and the Court should consider the right of both the parties.

We request that the Government will give full consideration to these matters and will guide us to a very easy path.

We trust that if the Government removes the forementioned troubles, and grant our above requests it would be beneficial for the public and harmless to the Government and will induce so that divers, Nakhudas and Tajers will offer their manifold thanks to the Government and leave the result of our affairs in the hands of those who are in authority.

We are expecting justice from the Government and request the Government to grant us interview to discuss these questions and also to issue proclamations what we have requested above and if it pleased God, the Government will help us to what will bring peace on the World and this is the greatest goodness.





D.O. No. 90/9/5.
Bahrain 127
31st October 1925

The Honorable Lieut Colonel F.B. Prescott

~~After a conference was held at the Agency, I have~~
~~had a further conference with the petitioners~~
~~and as a result have written the English translation~~

of the Arabic petition from certain diving hawkdars,
which was received in the Agency shortly before
your departure. The petition is very ambiguous
in its address, it being addressed merely to
the Government.

I have spoken to Sheikh Hamad about it, and
as he said he had not seen it, I showed it to
him. He was not at all pleased with the
wording in some places and seemed annoyed
that the petitioners had not consulted him before
submitting the petition to the Agency.

I agreed that if he called them to the Joint
Court I would tell them that I advised that they
had done wrong in not consulting their ruler.



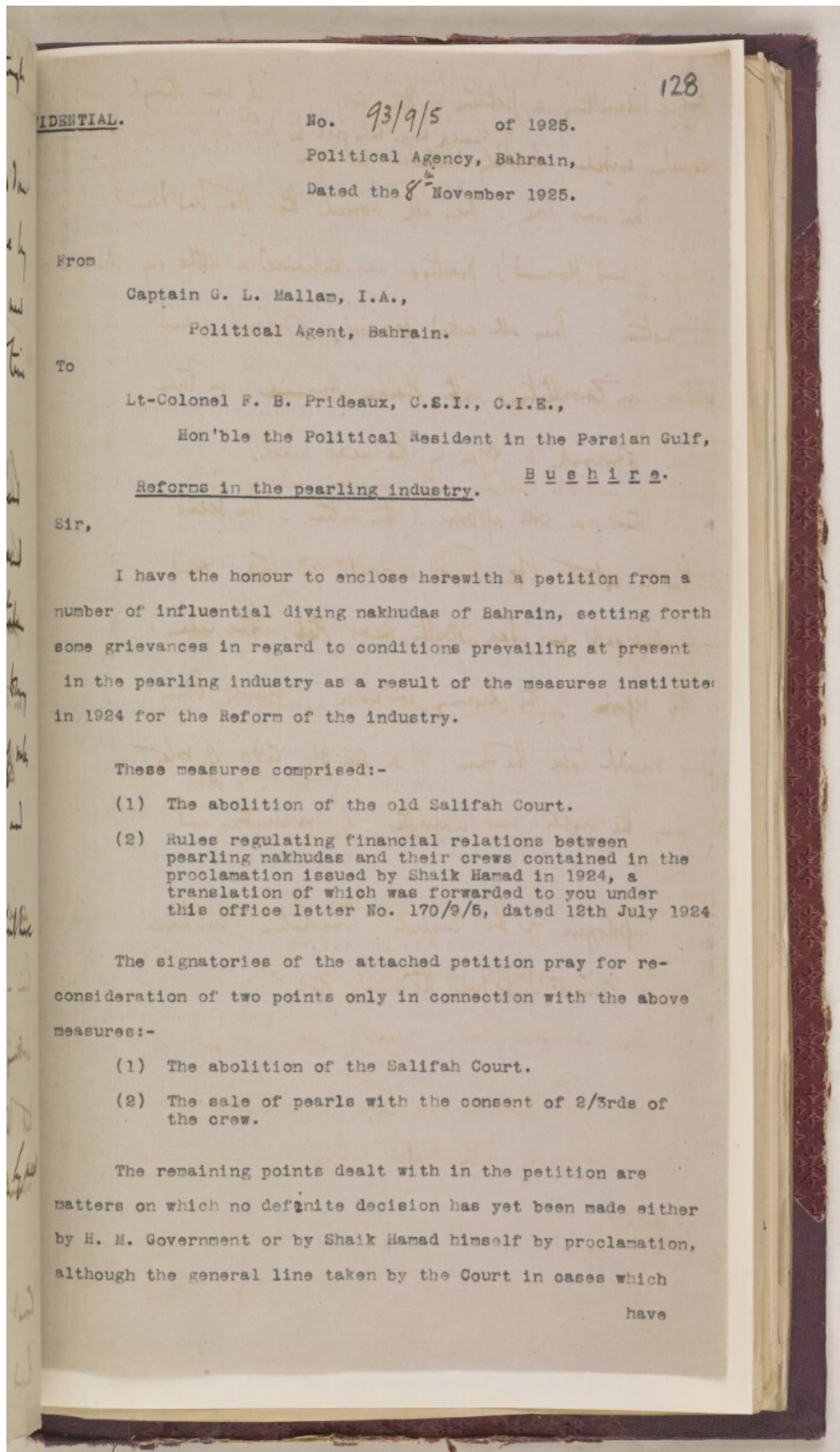
before submitting a petition of this sort, which was, though
vaguely worded, obviously intended for you.

This was done. They all agreed that they had done
wrong, and Hamud's prestige was enhanced a little by
this action. They all asked permission to submit a new
petition in consultation with Sheikh Hamud in time
for me to forward it by the next mail.

I trust you will approve of this action. The second
petition is certainly the more moderate in tone, and
may suggest an idea of the next step to be taken
in the reform of the diving industry, which I think
should take the form of a simple code of rules
defining the rights and liabilities of workmen and
divers.

I apologise for the "English" translation, but have
no time to send it before the mail goes.

P.S. I will send both ~~other~~ petitions by the next





have come before it, *should have satisfied the petitioners on many of the points now raised by them.*

In view of Major Daly's imminent return to Bahrain, I am not in a position to venture any detailed comments on measures of reform which have already been instituted in the pearling industry during his incumbency as Political Agent. It may not however be out of place for me to submit for your consideration one or two points which have become apparent to me during my experience of this years pearling season in Bahrain.

In regard to the abolition of the Salifah Court, I will venture only to remark that my experience of the diving cases with which I have had to deal is that the restitution of a reformed kind of Salifah Court is a necessity, both from a point of view of equity and also from the fact that public opinion will sooner or later demand it.

I do not think that it is within the power of the ordinary Court of Justice to deal fairly with some of the complicated differences which arise between diver and nakhuda, ~~and~~ nakhuda and nakhuda and nakhuda and Tajar, without the assistance and advice of a body of men who enjoy universal respect in Bahrain, and who are well versed in local diving custom.

If it would be possible for H.M. Government to define the main principles by which these men should be guided in their decisions, and if the Political Agent and Sheikh Hamad were given all the powers of appeal and revision from those decisions in cases of necessity, I do not think there would be any serious danger of the old oppressions and malpractices creeping back into the industry. At the same time much discontent among the nakhudas and Tajars, who after all control the industry, would be removed and the Salifah body would be in a position to advise the Government in regard to further measures for the smooth working of the industry.

The sale of pearls with the consent of 2/3rds of the crew.



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though theoretically unassailable, is in practice a considerable hardship on the nakhuda. In the pearl trade bargains can only be made by ~~the~~ astute "haggling" with a would-be purchaser and by closing suddenly with a favourable offer. If the nakhuda is hampered by having to consult 2/3rds of his crew, who are mostly ignorant of the market value of the pearls, he is precluded from making a good bargain. On shore, when the diving season is over, the divers scatter almost at once to their homes and nakhudas have to my knowledge in many cases had the greatest of difficulty in assembling 2/3rds of their crew for a sale of the pearls, and in many cases they have lost valuable opportunities in doing so.

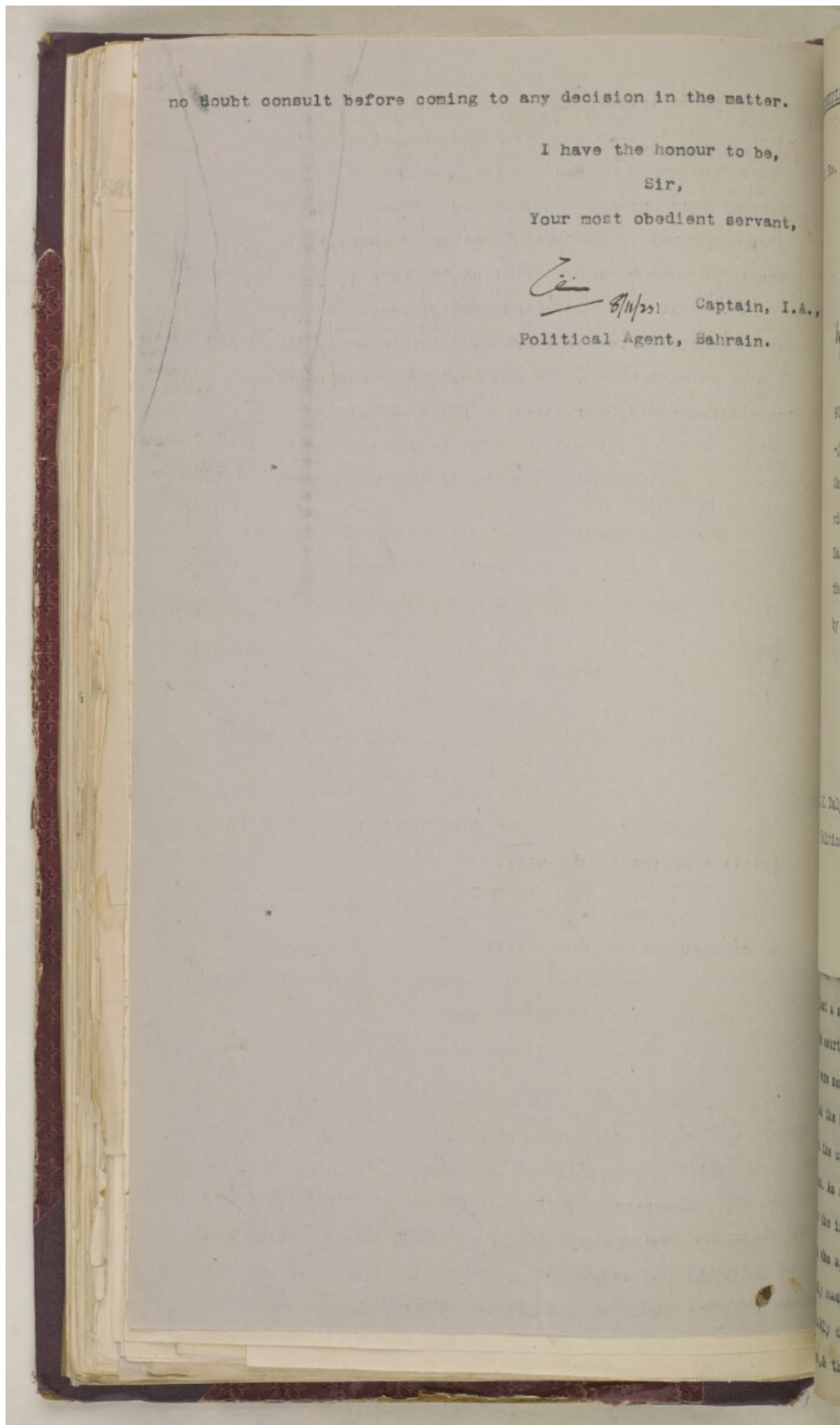
I venture to think that there is in the present petition a suggestion which is well worth consideration. If at the beginning of the diving ~~season~~ season, the crew were to elect by a majority vote a limited number of their own fellows to represent their interests in the sale of the pearls throughout the diving season, much of the difficulties now experienced by the nakhuda would be alleviated, and the interests of the crew would be adequately protected.

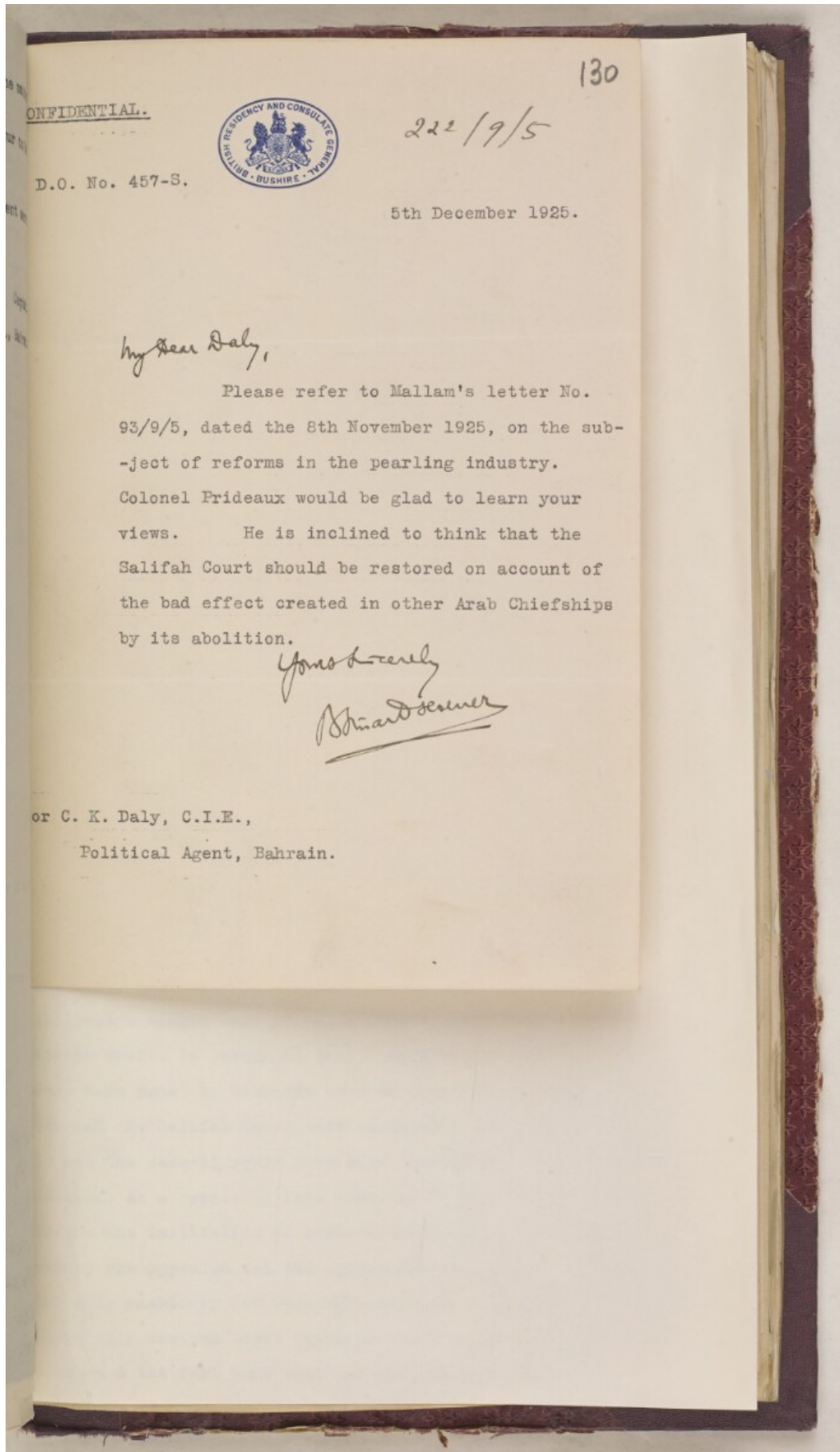
I would suggest that one representative for every 10 or fraction of ten of the crew would be sufficient.

In regard to the remaining points raised in the petition I would suggest that the duties of the diver towards the nakhuda on shore and at sea, during the diving season and immediately before and afterwards be defined in a proclamation by Sheikh Hamad. Questions such as the arrest of ~~the~~ runaway divers and the postponement of ordinary disputes till after the ~~end~~ of the diving season might be similarly dealt with in the same proclamation.

I submit the above suggestions merely from a desire to record my impressions and experiences during the late diving season and ^{with} no object of embarrassing Major Daly whom you will

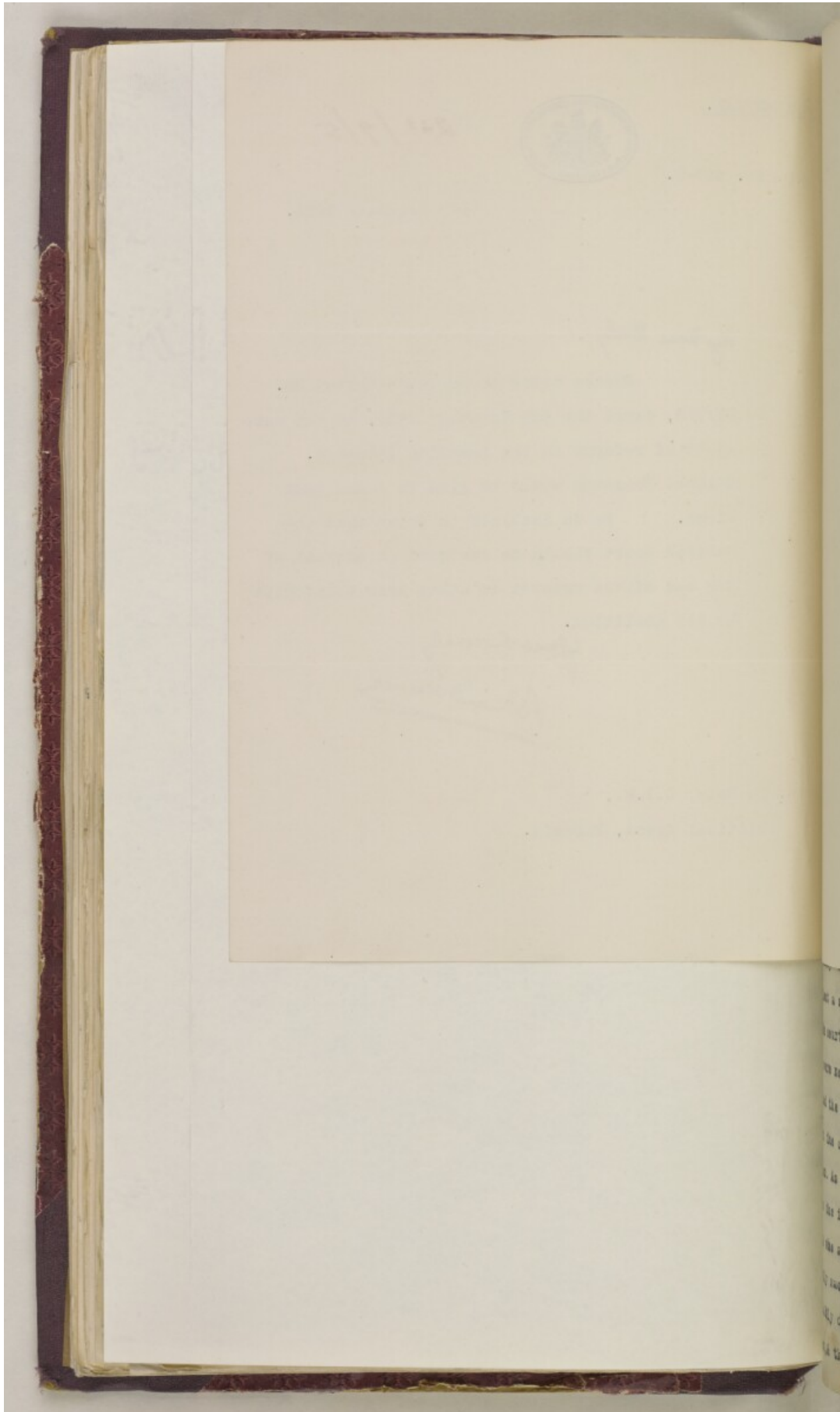
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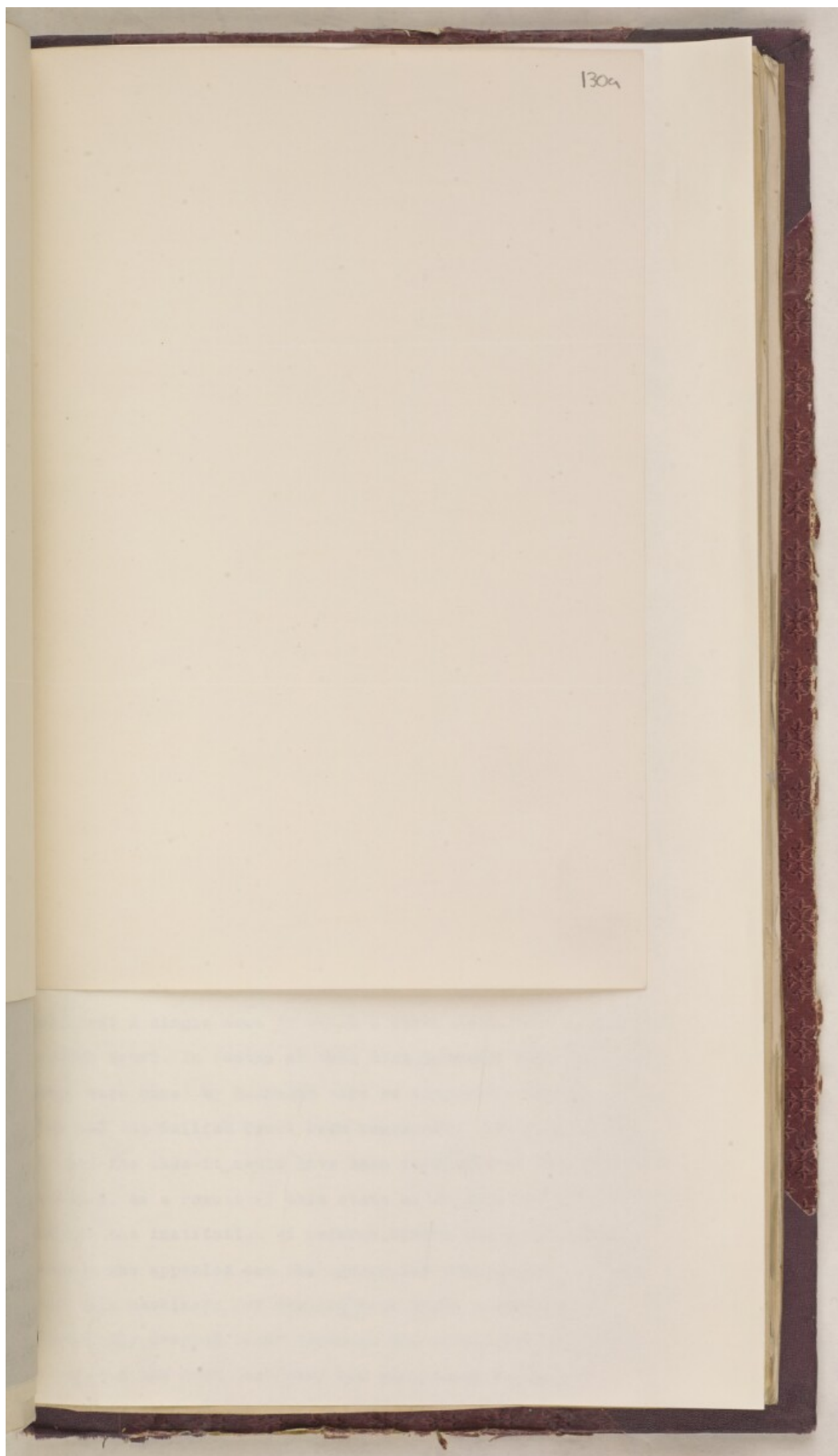


'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[130v] (279/434)



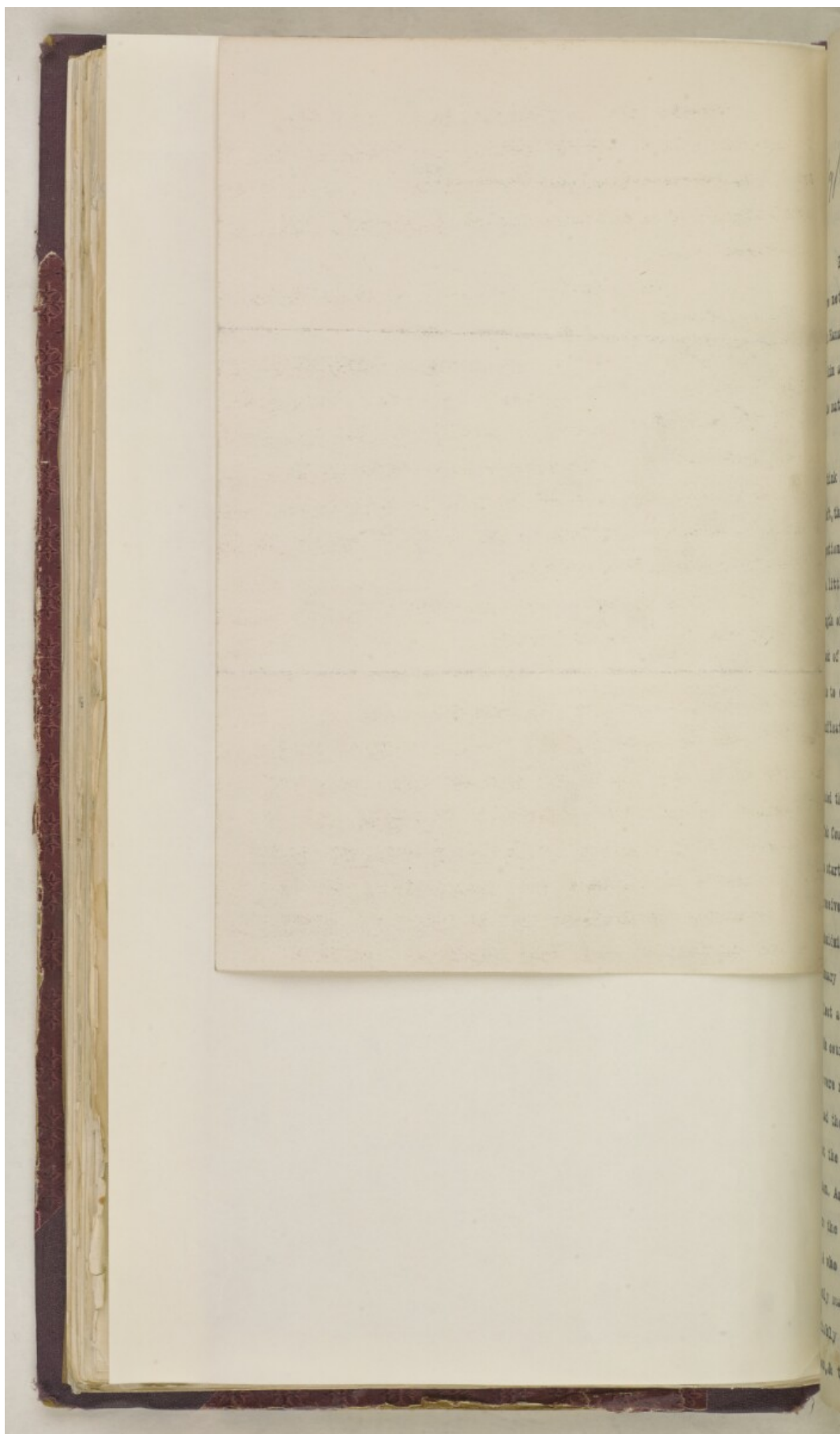


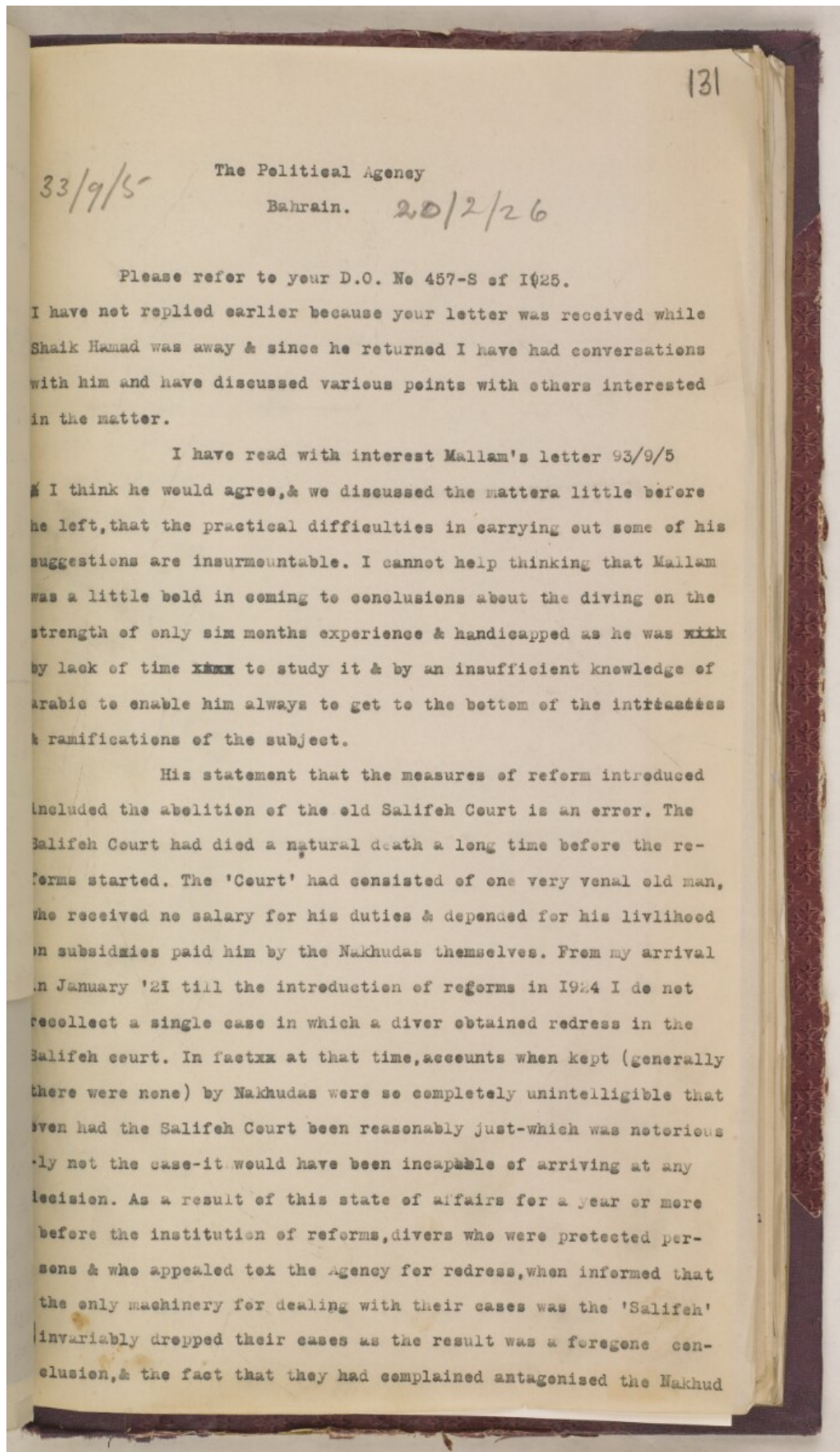
**'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[130ar] (280/434)**





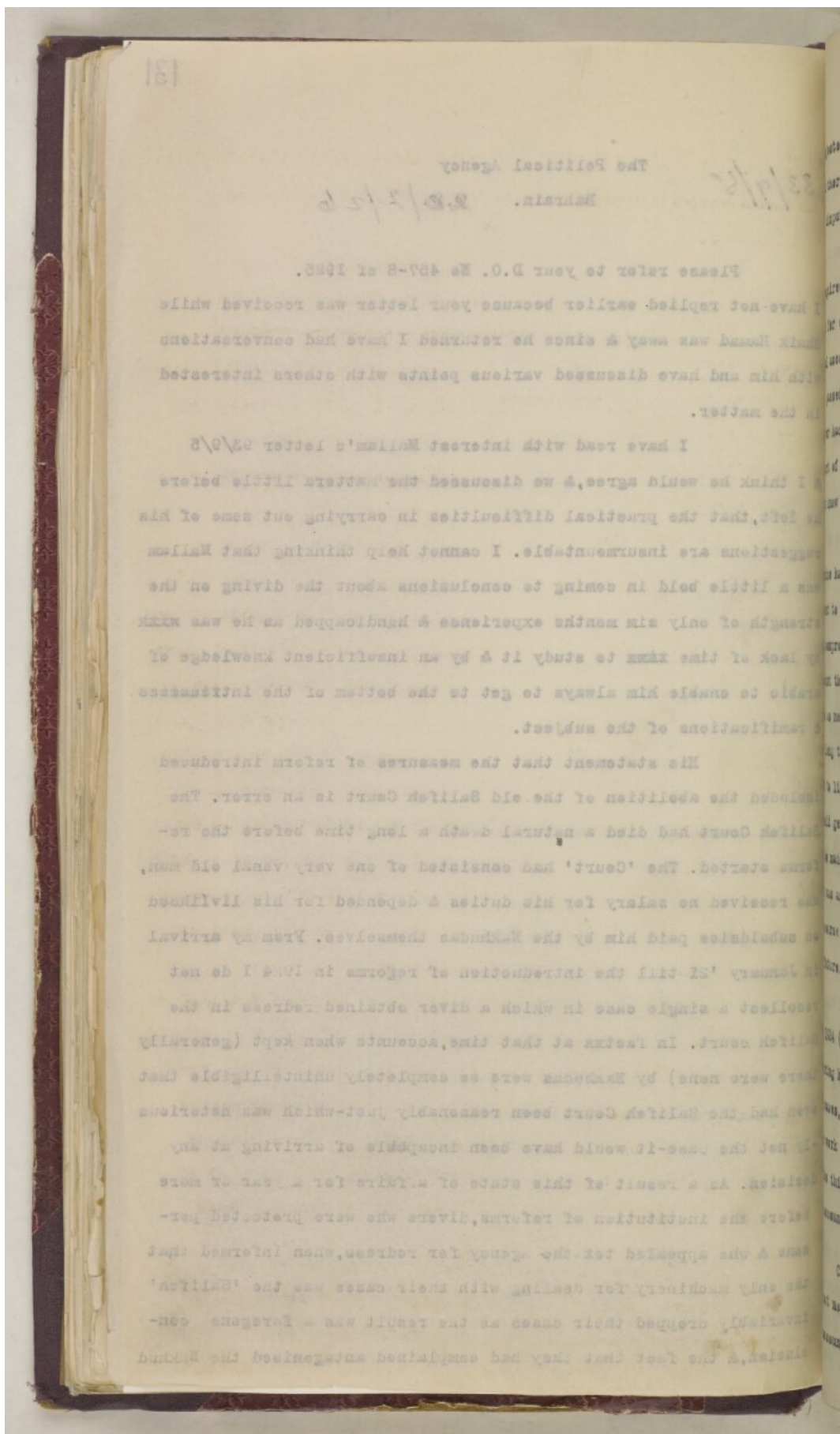
'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[130av] (281/434)







'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
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subjected them to worse treatment than before. When the reforms started there virtually existed no tribunal for the settlement of diving disputes.

In 1924 a system was started whereby all Nakhudas were required to keep two accounts—a general account—and an individual account for each diver. The difficulty then arose of starting the individual accounts. Many divers had dived for years with their Nakhuda who had passed through several hands. There were cases in which they never had accounts for twenty years and sometimes more, & when the sort of account existed the diver had never had access to it & did not know how he stood.

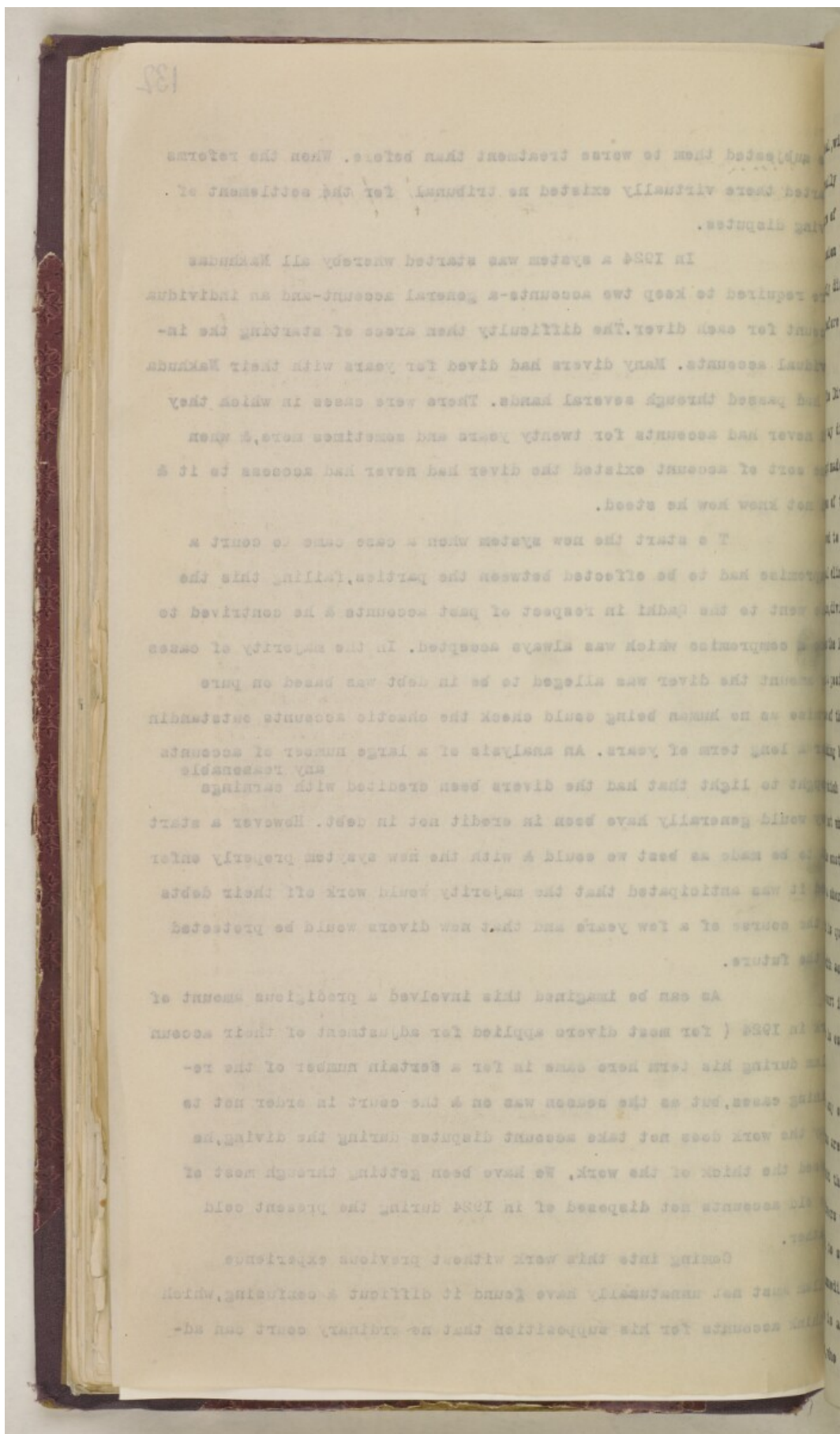
To start the new system when a case came to court a compromise had to be effected between the parties, failing this the case went to the Qadhi in respect of past accounts & he contrived to effect a compromise which was always accepted. In the majority of cases the amount the diver was alleged to be in debt was based on pure guess as no human being could check the chaotic accounts outstanding for a long term of years. An analysis of a large number of accounts brought to light that had the divers been credited with earnings ^{any reasonable} they would generally have been in credit not in debt. However a start had to be made as best we could & with the new system properly enforced it was anticipated that the majority would work off their debts in the course of a few years and that new divers would be protected in the future.

As can be imagined this involved a prodigious amount of work. In 1924 (for most divers applied for adjustment of their accounts) during his term here came in for a certain number of the remaining cases, but as the season was on & the court in order not to interrupt the work does not take account disputes during the diving, he pressed the thick of the work. We have been getting through most of the old accounts not disposed of in 1924 during the present cold weather.

Coming into this work without previous experience I must not unnaturally have found it difficult & confusing, which I link accounts for his supposition that no ordinary court can ad-



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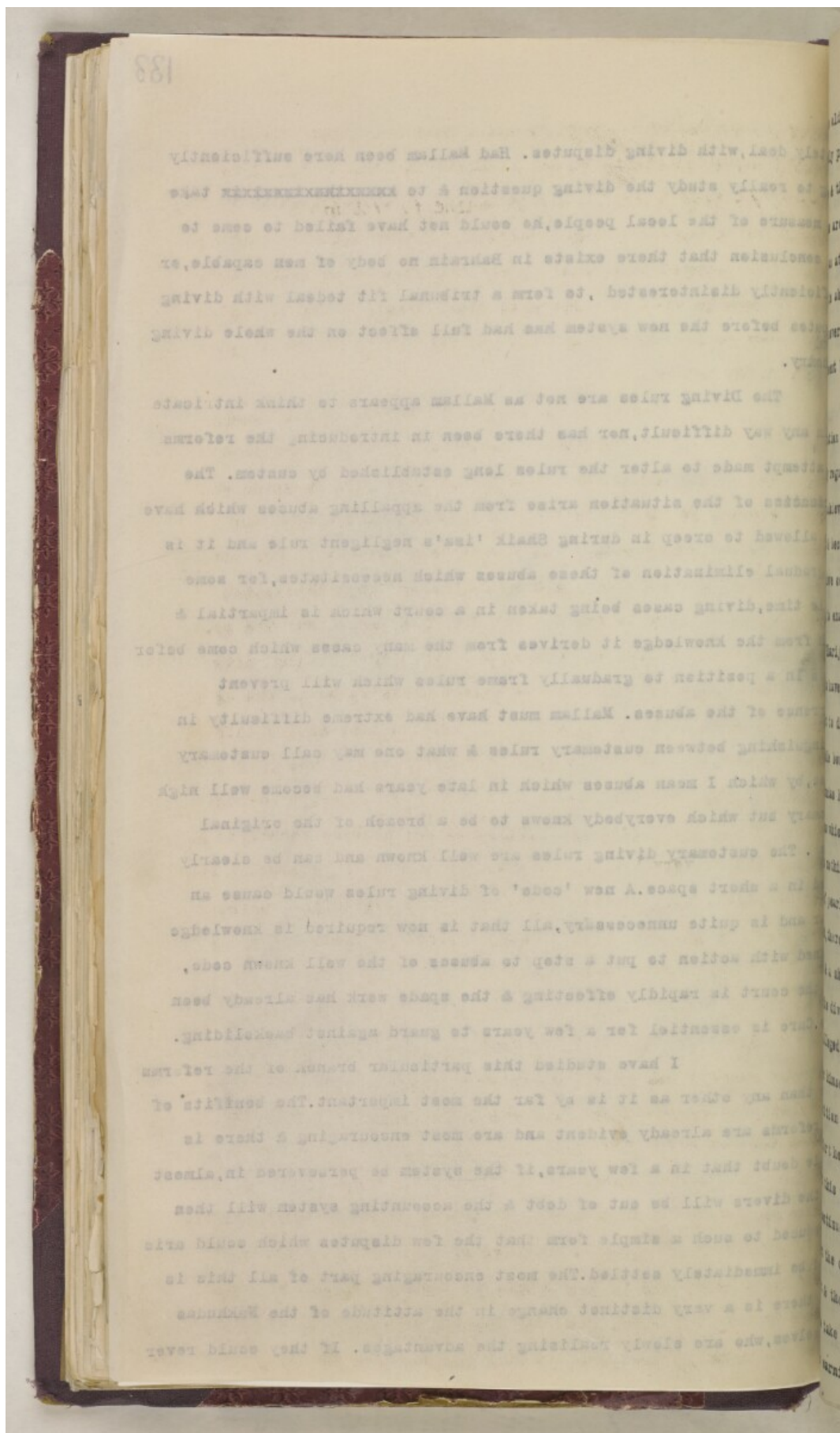
tely deal, with diving disputes. Had Mallam been here sufficiently
g to really study the diving question & to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ take
measure of the local people, he could not have failed to come to
conclusion that there exists in Bahrain no body of men capable, or
sufficiently disinterested, to form a tribunal fit to deal with diving
putes before the new system has had full effect on the whole diving
industry.

The Diving rules are not as Mallam appears to think intricate
in any way difficult, nor has there been in introducing the reforms
attempt made to alter the rules long established by custom. The
causes of the situation arise from the appalling abuses which have
allowed to creep in during Shaik 'isa's negligent rule and it is
gradual elimination of these abuses which necessitates, for some
le time, diving cases being taken in a court which is impartial &
n from the knowledge it derives from the many cases which come before
is in a position to gradually frame rules which will prevent
rence of the abuses. Mallam must have had extreme difficulty in
linguishing between customary rules & what one may call customary
is, by which I mean abuses which in late years had become well nigh
mary but which everybody knows to be a breach of the original
. The customary diving rules are well known and can be clearly
d in a short space. A new 'code' of diving rules would cause an
r and is quite unnecessary, all that is now required is knowledge
ned with action to put a stop to abuses of the well known code,
the court is rapidly effecting & the spade work has already been
. Care is essential for a few years to guard against backsliding.

I have studied this particular branch of the reforms
than any other as it is by far the most important. The benefits of
reforms are already evident and are most encouraging & there is
le doubt that in a few years, if the system be persevered in, almost
the divers will be out of debt & the accounting system will then
duced to such a simple form that the few disputes which could arise
be immediately settled. The most encouraging part of all this is
there is a very distinct change in the attitude of the Nakhudas
elves, who are slowly realising the advantages. If they could rever



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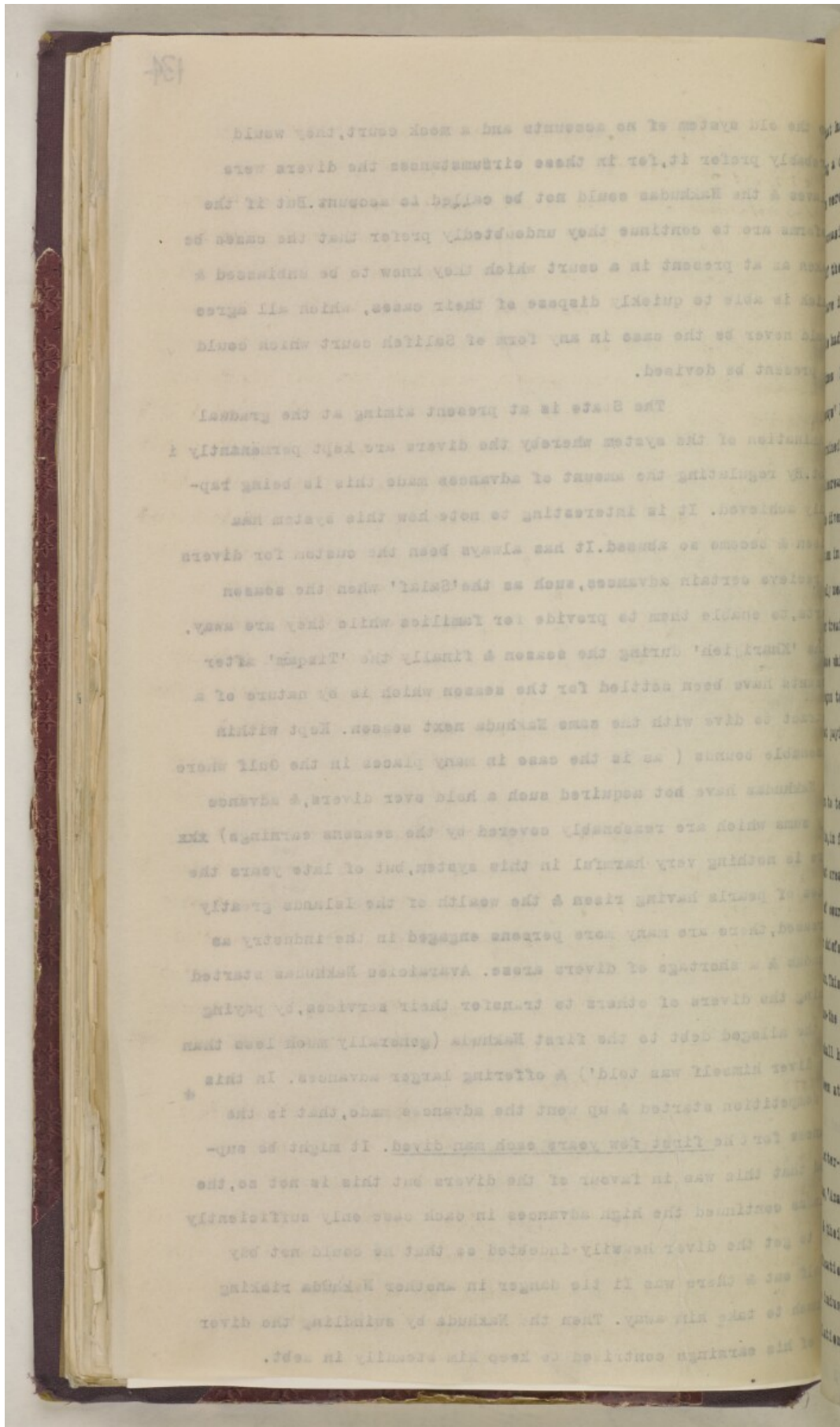




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to the old system of no accounts and a meek court, they would probably prefer it, for in these circumstances the divers were slaves & the Nakhudas could not be called to account. But if the reforms are to continue they undoubtedly prefer that the cases be taken as at present in a court which they know to be unbiassed & which is able to quickly dispose of their cases, which all agree could never be the case in any form of Salifeh court which could at present be devised.

The State is at present aiming at the gradual diminution of the system whereby the divers are kept permanently in debt. By regulating the amount of advances made this is being rapidly achieved. It is interesting to note how this system has arisen & become so abused. It has always been the custom for divers to receive certain advances, such as the 'Salaf' when the season starts, to enable them to provide for families while they are away, the 'Kharijiah' during the season & finally the 'Tisqam' after accounts have been settled for the season which is by nature of a tract to dive with the same Nakhuda next season. Kept within reasonable bounds (as is the case in many places in the Gulf where Nakhudas have not acquired such a hold over divers, & advance sums which are reasonably covered by the seasons earnings) there is nothing very harmful in this system, but of late years the prices of pearls having risen & the wealth of the Islands greatly increased, there are many more persons engaged in the industry as Nakhudas & a shortage of divers arose. Avaricious Nakhudas started inducing the divers of others to transfer their services, by paying the alleged debt to the first Nakhuda (generally much less than the diver himself was told) & offering larger advances. In this competition started & up went the advances made, that is the sums for the first few years each man dived. It might be supposed that this was in favour of the divers but this is not so, the Nakhudas continued the high advances in each case only sufficiently to get the diver heavily indebted so that he could not buy his way out & there was little danger in another Nakhuda risking much to take him away. Then the Nakhuda by swindling the diver of his earnings contrived to keep him steadily in debt.



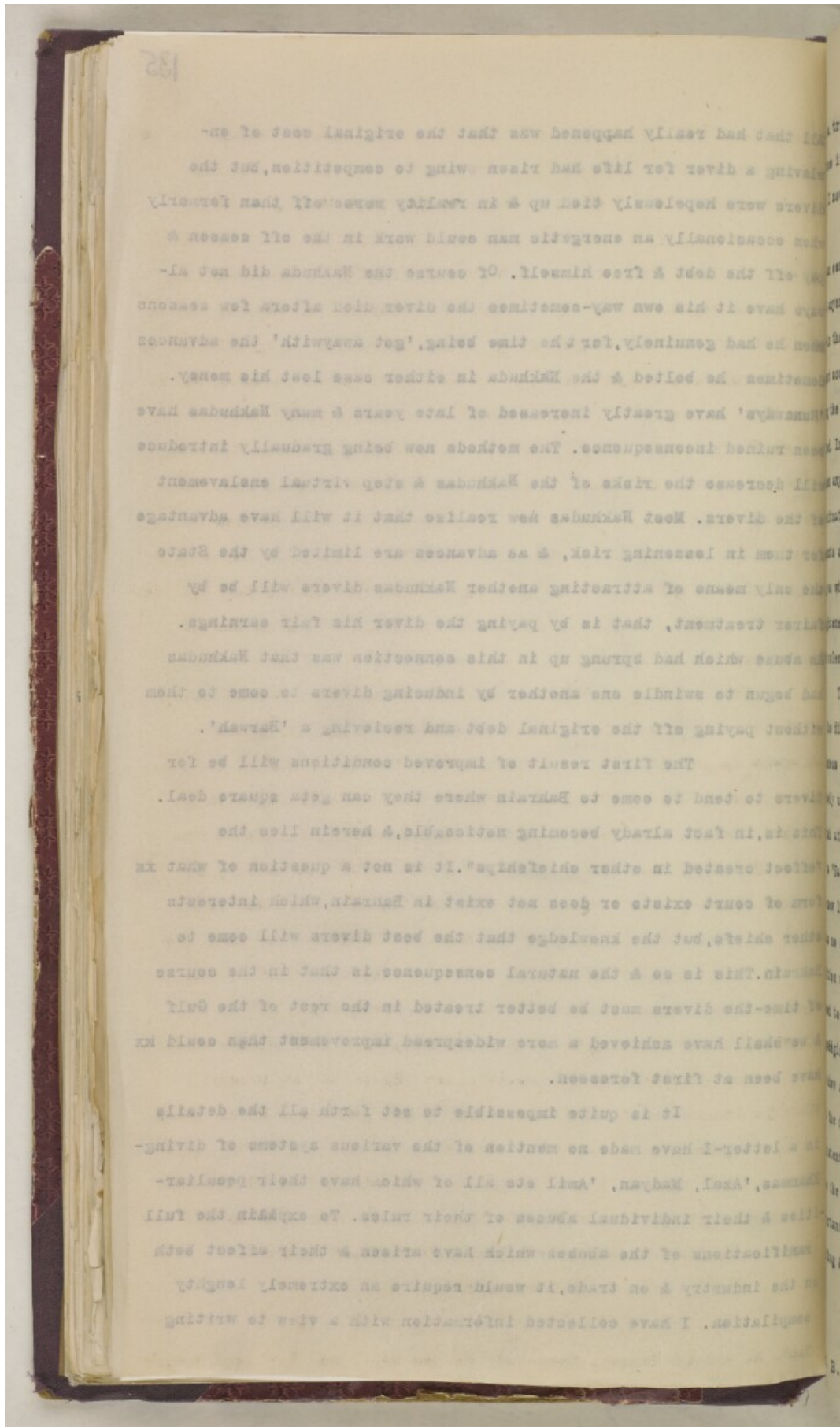


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all that had really happened was that the original cost of enslaving a diver for life had risen owing to competition, but the divers were hopelessly tied up & in reality worse off than formerly when occasionally an energetic man could work in the off season & pay off the debt & free himself. Of course the Nakhuda did not always have it his own way-sometimes the diver died after a few seasons when he had genuinely, for the time being, 'got away with' the advances sometimes he belted & the Nakhuda in either case lost his money. 'Runaways' have greatly increased of late years & many Nakhudas have been ruined in consequence. The methods now being gradually introduced will decrease the risks of the Nakhudas & stop virtual enslavement of the divers. Most Nakhudas now realise that it will have advantage for them in lessening risk, & as advances are limited by the State the only means of attracting another Nakhudas divers will be by fairer treatment, that is by paying the diver his fair earnings. An abuse which had sprung up in this connection was that Nakhudas had begun to swindle one another by inducing divers to come to them without paying off the original debt and receiving a 'Barwah'.

The first result of improved conditions will be for divers to tend to come to Bahrain where they can get a square deal. This is, in fact, already becoming noticeable, & herein lies the effect created in other chiefships. It is not a question of what form of court exists or does not exist in Bahrain, which interests other chiefs, but the knowledge that the best divers will come to Bahrain. This is so & the natural consequence is that in the course of time the divers must be better treated in the rest of the Gulf as we shall have achieved a more widespread improvement than could have been at first foreseen.

It is quite impossible to set forth all the details in a letter-I have made no mention of the various systems of diving-Shammas, 'Azal, Madyan, 'Amil etc all of which have their peculiarities & their individual abuses of their rules. To explain the full ramifications of the abuses which have arisen & their effect both on the industry & on trade, it would require an extremely lengthy compilation. I have collected information with a view to writing





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such a treatise, but pressure of other work has made it impossible to produce it. Perhaps when the Adviser has taken over some of the work I now deal with I shall be able to get on with it.

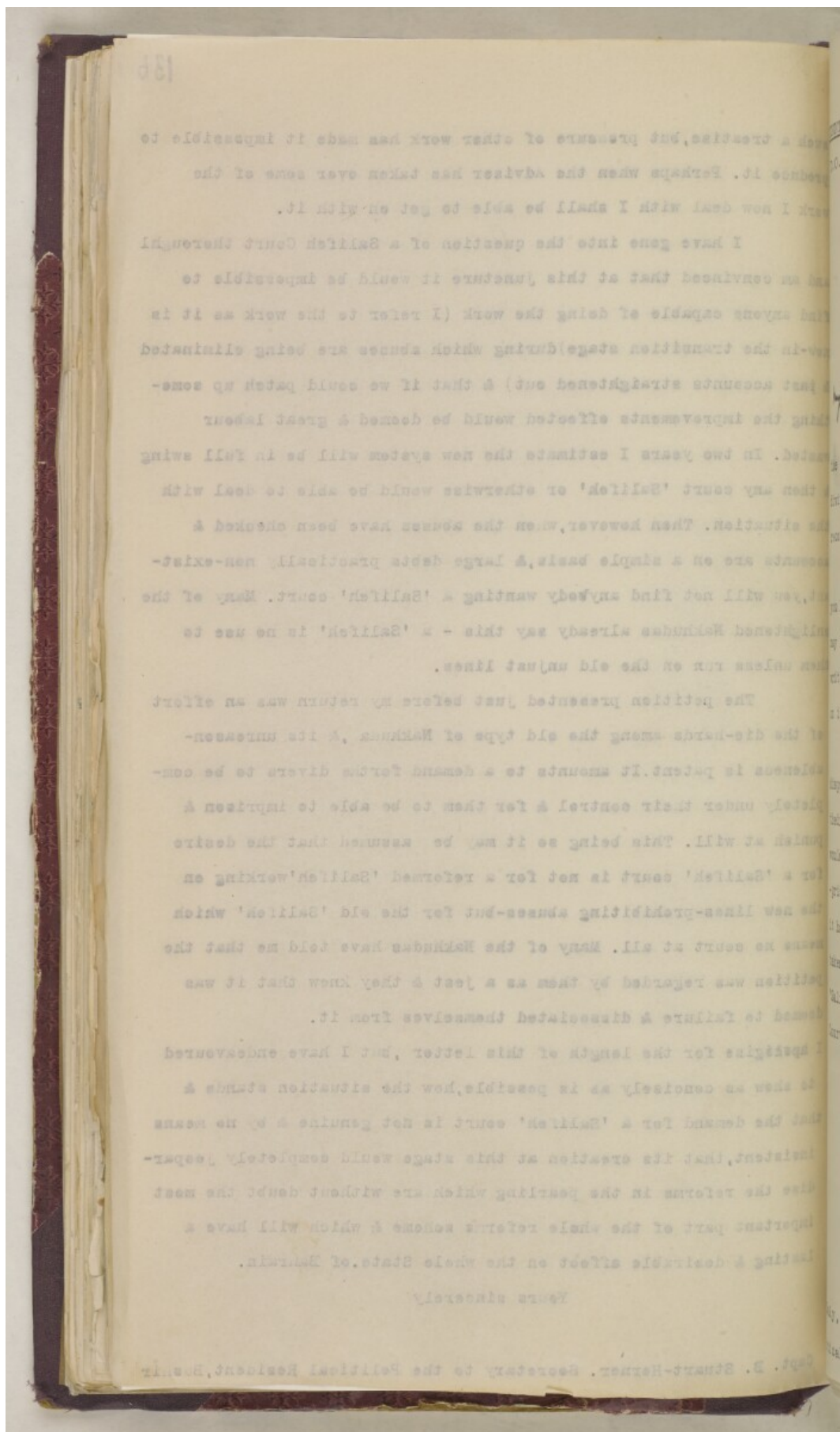
I have gone into the question of a Salifeh Court thoroughl and am convinced that at this juncture it would be impossible to find anyone capable of doing the work (I refer to the work as it is now-in the transition stage) during which abuses are being eliminated (past accounts straightened out) & that if we could patch up something the improvements effected would be deemed a great labour wasted. In two years I estimate the new system will be in full swing then any court 'Salifeh' or otherwise would be able to deal with the situation. Then however, when the abuses have been checked & accounts are on a simple basis, & large debts practically non-existent, you will not find anybody wanting a 'Salifeh' court. Many of the enlightened Nakhudas already say this - a 'Salifeh' is no use to them unless run on the old unjust lines.

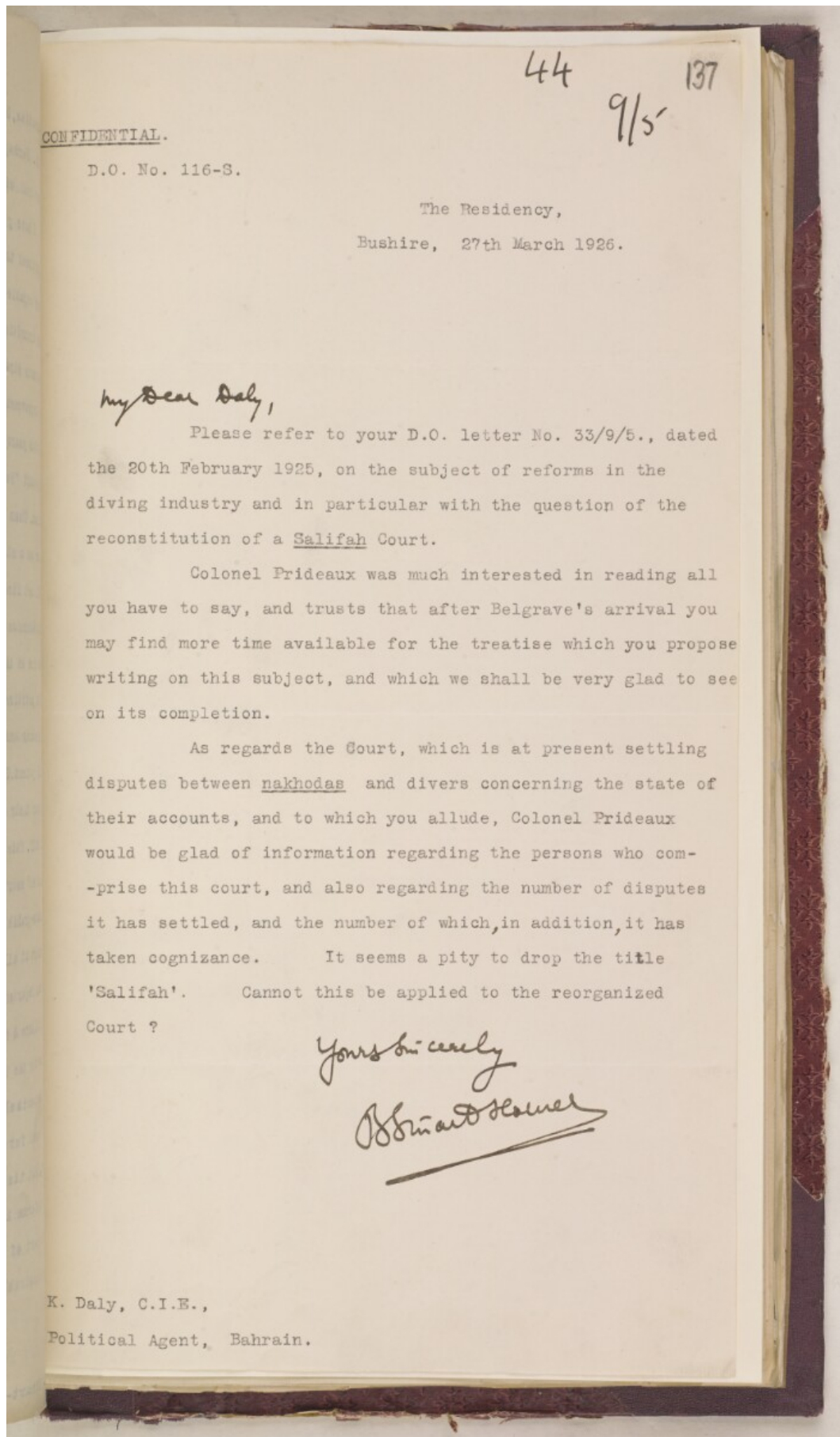
The petition presented just before my return was an effort of the die-hards among the old type of Nakhuda, & its unreasonableness is patent. It amounts to a demand for the divers to be completely under their control & for them to be able to imprison & punish at will. This being so it may be assumed that the desire for a 'Salifeh' court is not for a reformed 'Salifeh' working on the new lines-prohibiting abuses-but for the old 'Salifeh' which means no court at all. Many of the Nakhudas have told me that the petition was regarded by them as a jest & they knew that it was doomed to failure & dissociated themselves from it.

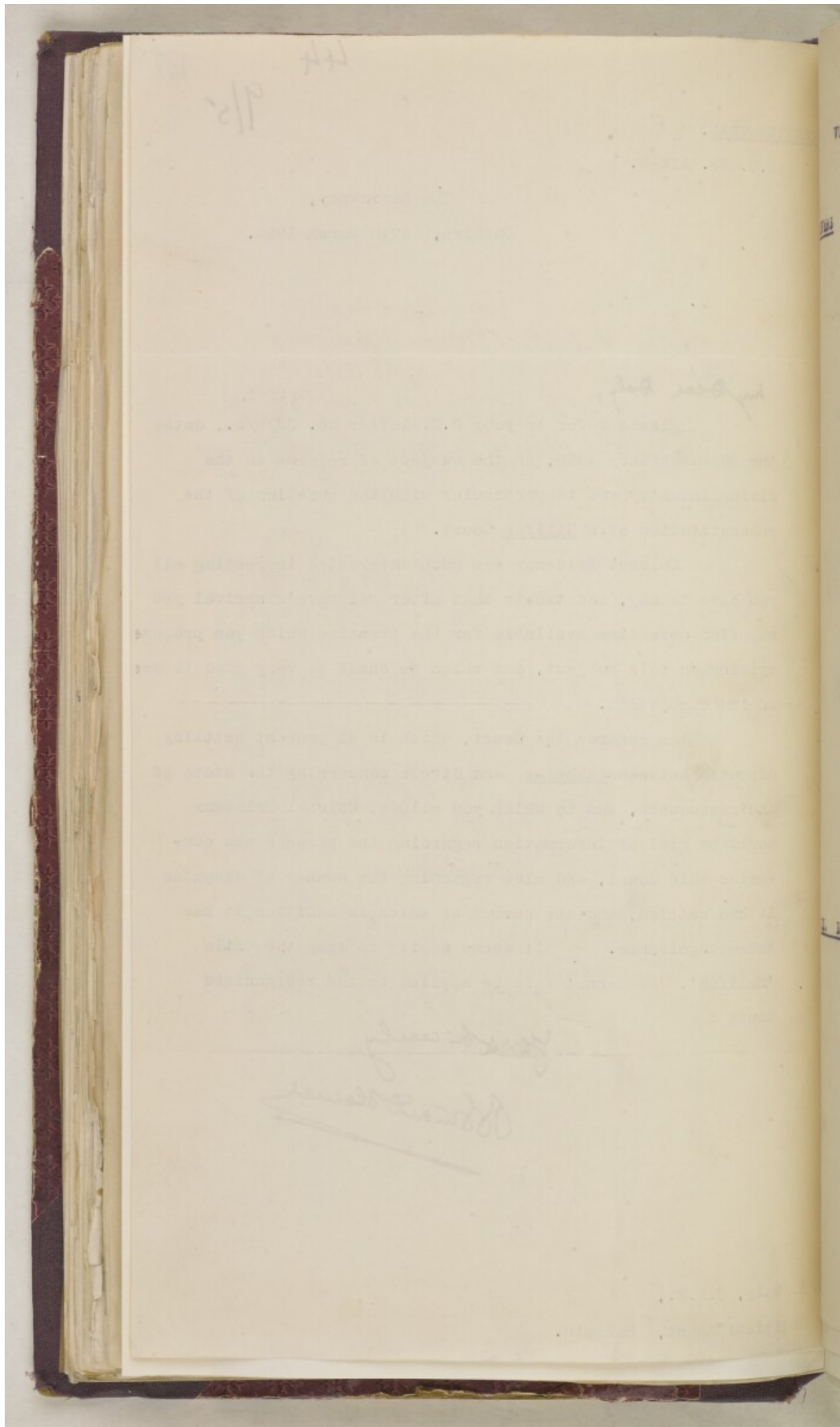
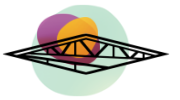
I apologise for the length of this letter, but I have endeavoured to shew as concisely as is possible, how the situation stands & that the demand for a 'Salifeh' court is not genuine & by no means insistent, that its creation at this stage would completely jeopardise the reforms in the pearling which are without doubt the most important part of the whole reforms scheme & which will have a lasting & desirable effect on the whole State of Bahrain.

Yours sincerely

Capt. B. Stuart-Horner. Secretary to the Political Resident, Bushair









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VOCABULARY OF DIVING TERMS ETC.

DIVERS

Jazwa. Divers.

Kais. A Diver - receives three shares.

Seib. A Puller " two shares.

Radif. A half puller, usually boys, apprentices,
two radifs count as one Seib, each
receives half a Seib's share.

Jeudi. The "Wakil" of the Markhuda. He receives
the share of three divers.

Tabakh. Cook, usually a boy, paid by the divers.

Azal. A diver who goes out in some Markhuda's
boat, but dives independently,
keeping his own catch, but paying
the Markhuda one fifth of his
profits and paying his own keep.
This is only done under the Khamas
system.

MARKHUDA Boat Captain, receives one fifth of
the total profits after deducting
license and all expenses.

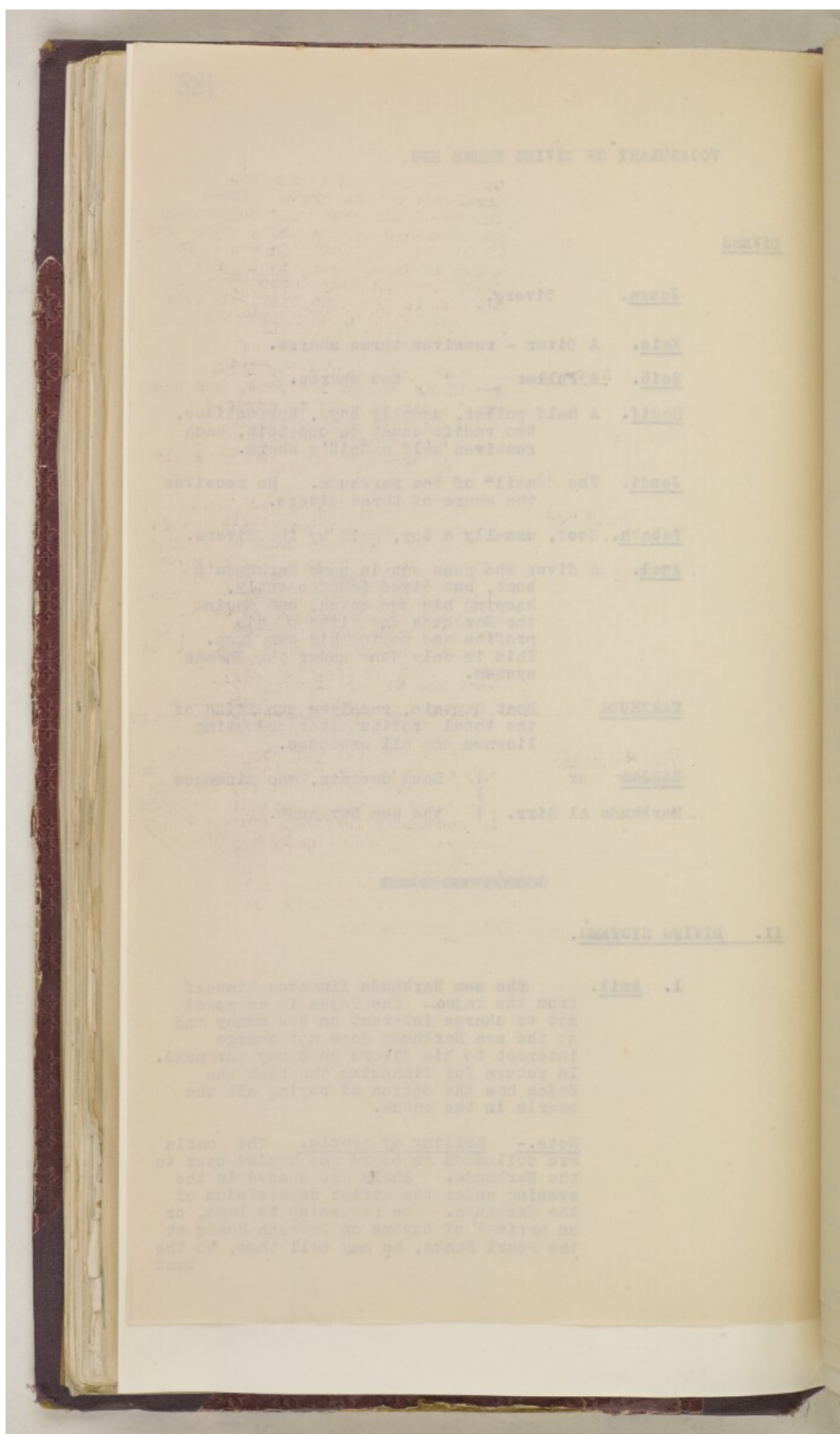
TAJIR
TAJAA or) Land Captain, who finances
Markhuda Al Birr.) the sea Markhuda.

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II. DIVING SYSTEMS.

1. Amil. The sea Markhuda finances himself
from the Tajaa. The Tajaa is supposed
not to charge interest on the money and
so the sea Markhuda does not charge
interest to his divers on money advanced.
In return for financing the boat the
Tajaa has the option of buying all the
pearls in the catch.

Note.- Selling of pearls. The pearls
are collected on board and handed over to
the Markhuda. Shells are opened in the
evening under the strict supervision of
the Markhuda. On returning to land, or
on arrival of buyers on Tawasha Boats at
the Pearl Banks, he may sell them, to the
best





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-2-

best advantage and with the knowledge of the crew. Two-thirds of the crew must be present as witnesses to the sale, according to one of the Diving Rules. In spite of this, there is little doubt that in many cases some of the pearls are kept back and sold independently by the Markhuda.

2. Madyan.

Both the sea and the Land Markhudas charge interest, but the pearls can be sold to anyone. Often in this system the Land Markhudas wrongfully compel the sea Markhudas to sell their pearls to them.

3. Khamas.

No advances are made to the divers. Several men who are part owners or sharing a boat so diving, one of them is made a Markhuda and does the accounts. He has to write in his account book the name and address of purchasers of pearls and all particulars as required by pearling rules for each "Tersha" or trip, both in his main account book and in the Divers' Books. The Markhuda gets $\frac{1}{5}$ of one fifth of the profits - remainder to divers.

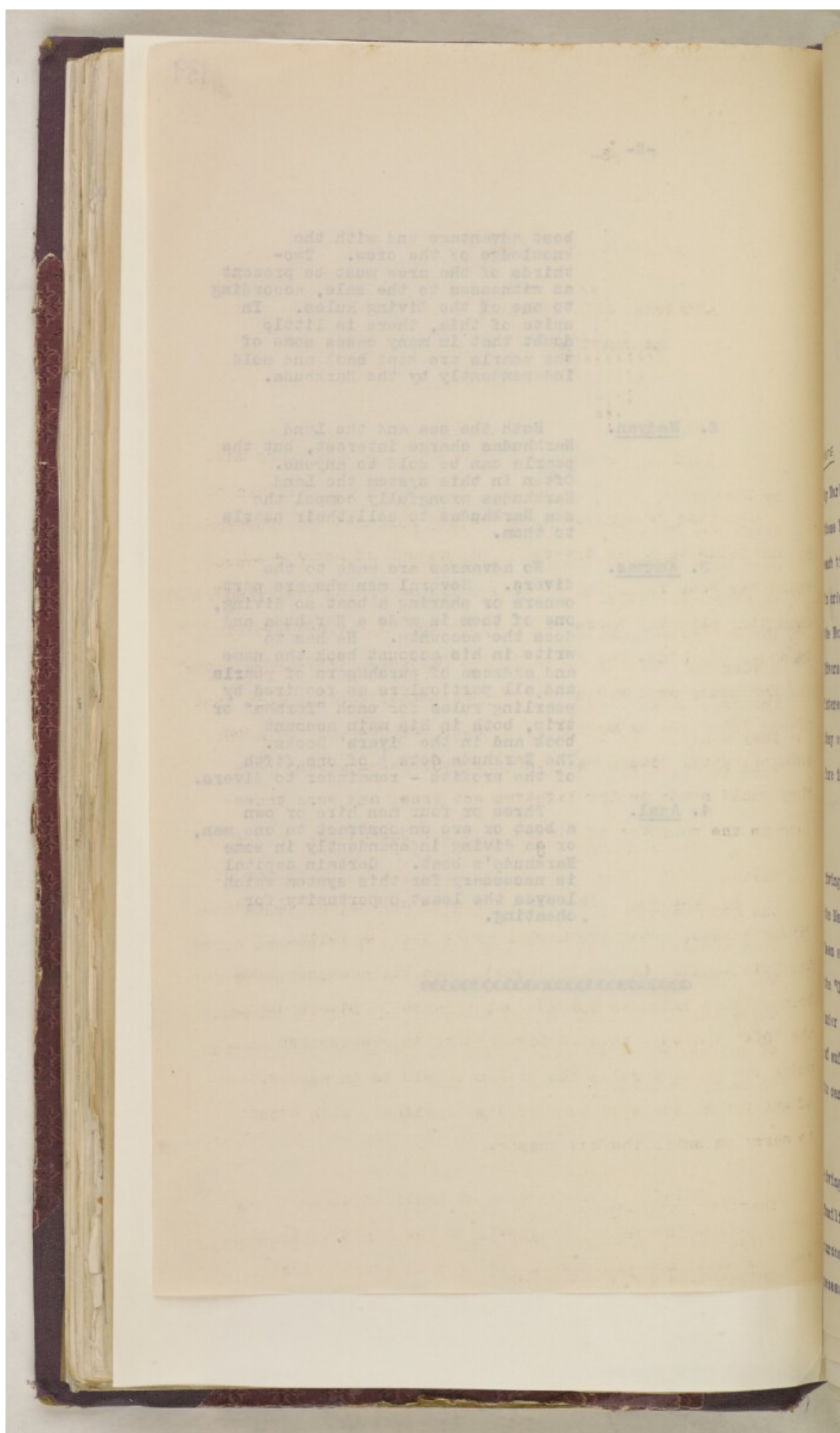
4. Azal.

Three or four men hire or own a boat or are on contract to one man, or go diving independently in some Markhuda's boat. Certain capital is necessary for this system which leaves the least opportunity for cheating.

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ADVANCES AND PAYMENTS



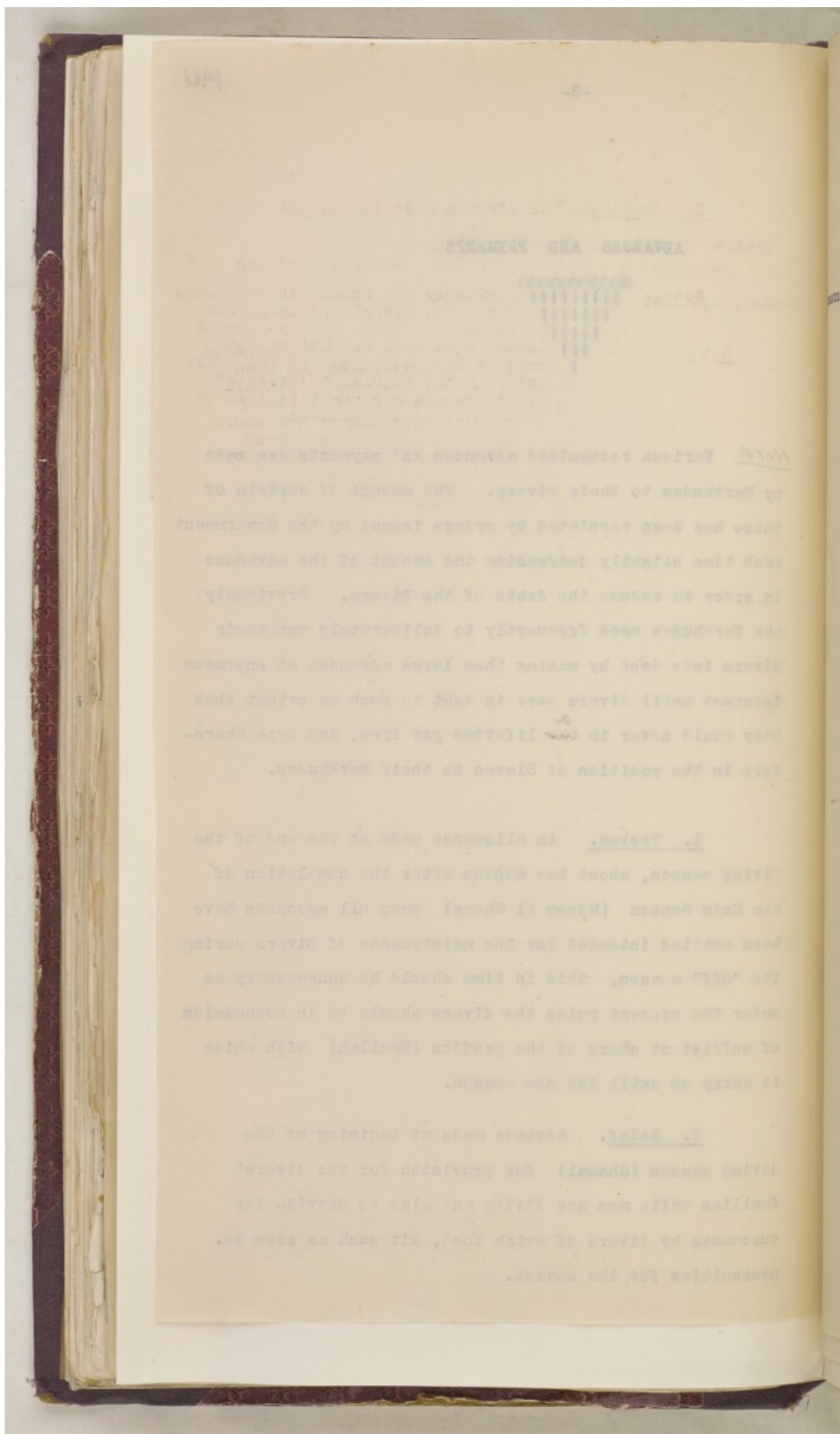
NOTE. Various recognised advances and payments are made by Markhudās to their Divers. The amount of certain of these has been regulated by orders issued by the Government each time slightly decreasing the amount of the advances in order to reduce the debts of the Divers. Previously the Markhudās used frequently to deliberately put their Divers into debt by making them large advances at enormous interest until divers were in debt to such an extent that they would never in ^a ~~the~~ lifetime get free, and were therefore in the position of Slaves to their Markhudās.

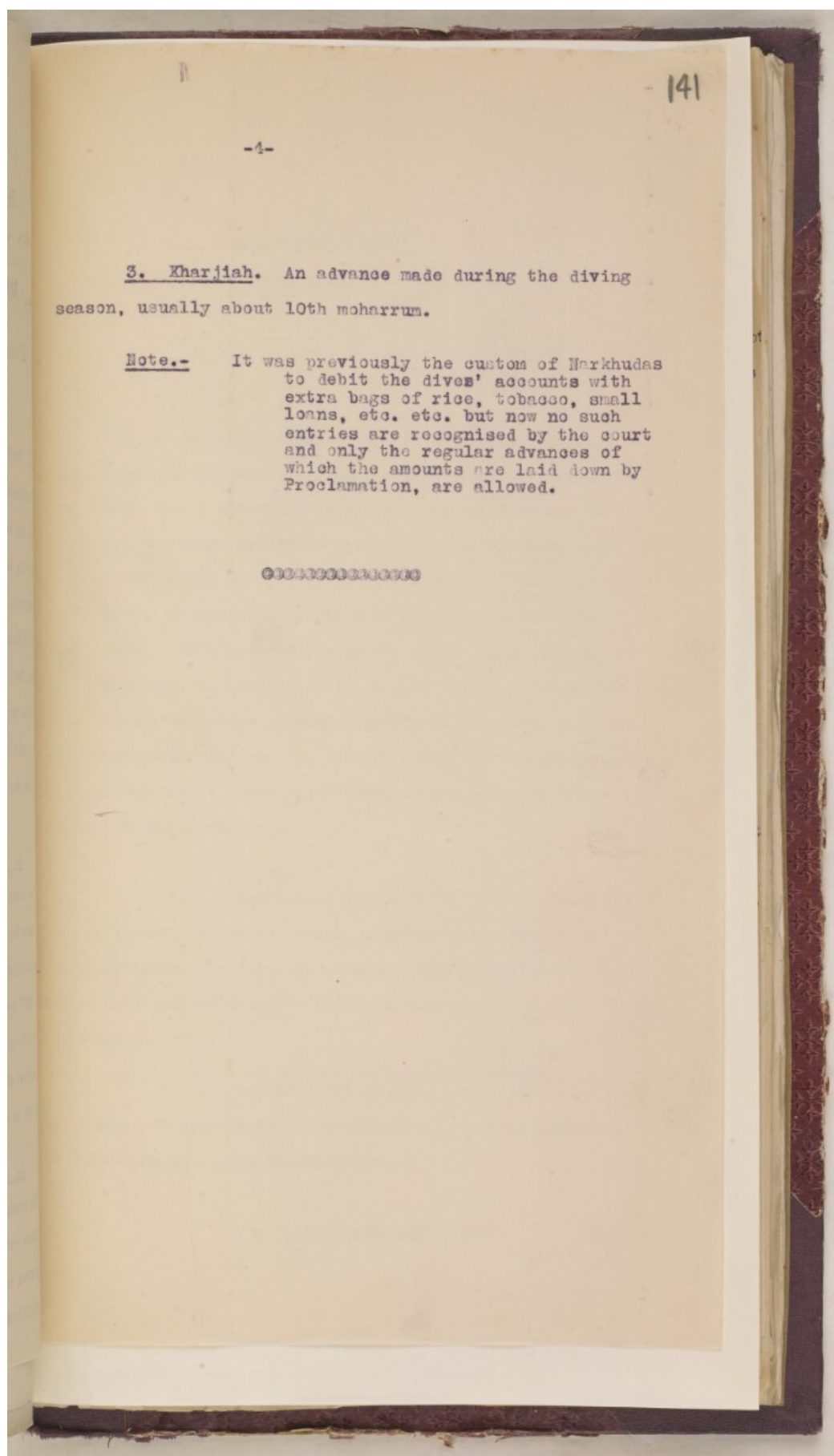
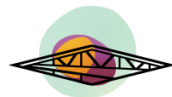
1. Teskam. An allowance made at the end of the Diving season, about two months after the completion of the Main Season (Mosem Al Ghoos) when all accounts have been settled intended for the maintenance of Divers during the "Off" season, this in time should be unnecessary as under the present rules the divers should be in possession of sufficient share of the profits (Fazilah) with which to carry on until the new season.

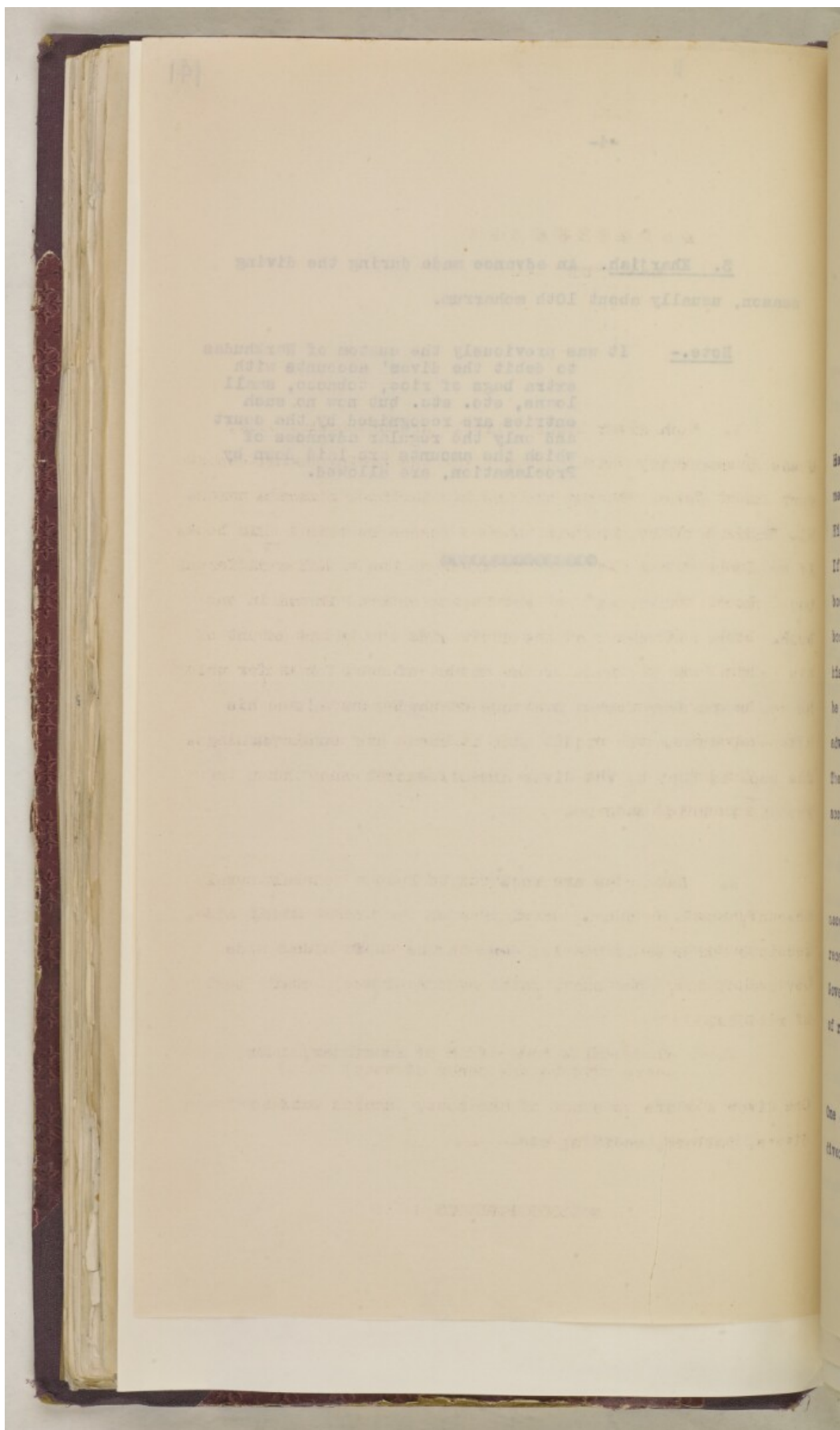
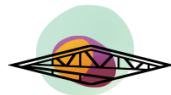
2. Selaf. Advance made at beginning of the diving season (Shawal) for provision for the divers' families while men are diving and also to provide for purchases by divers of extra food, kit such as rope &c. necessities for the season.

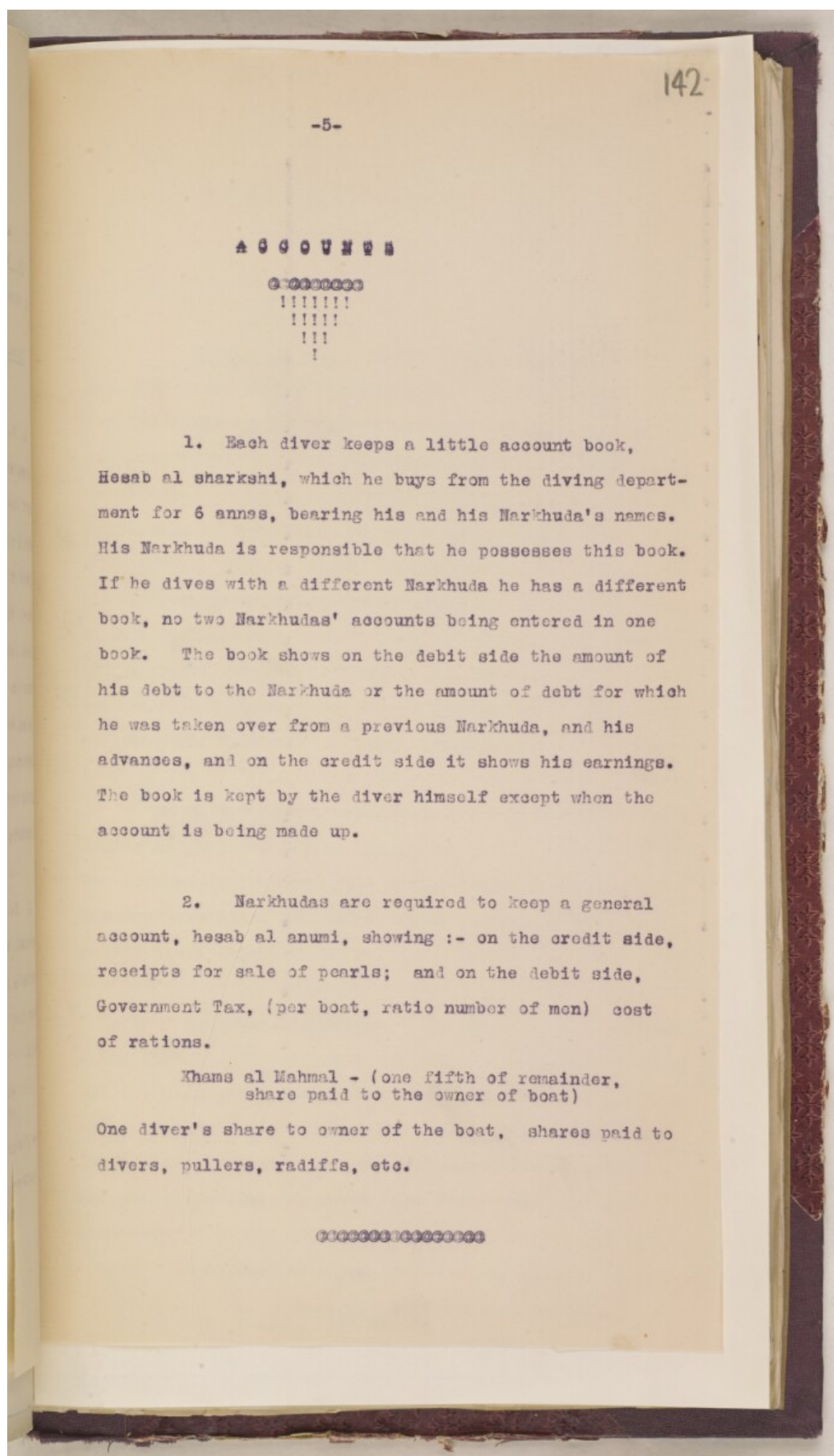


'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[140v] (301/434)









A C C O U N T S

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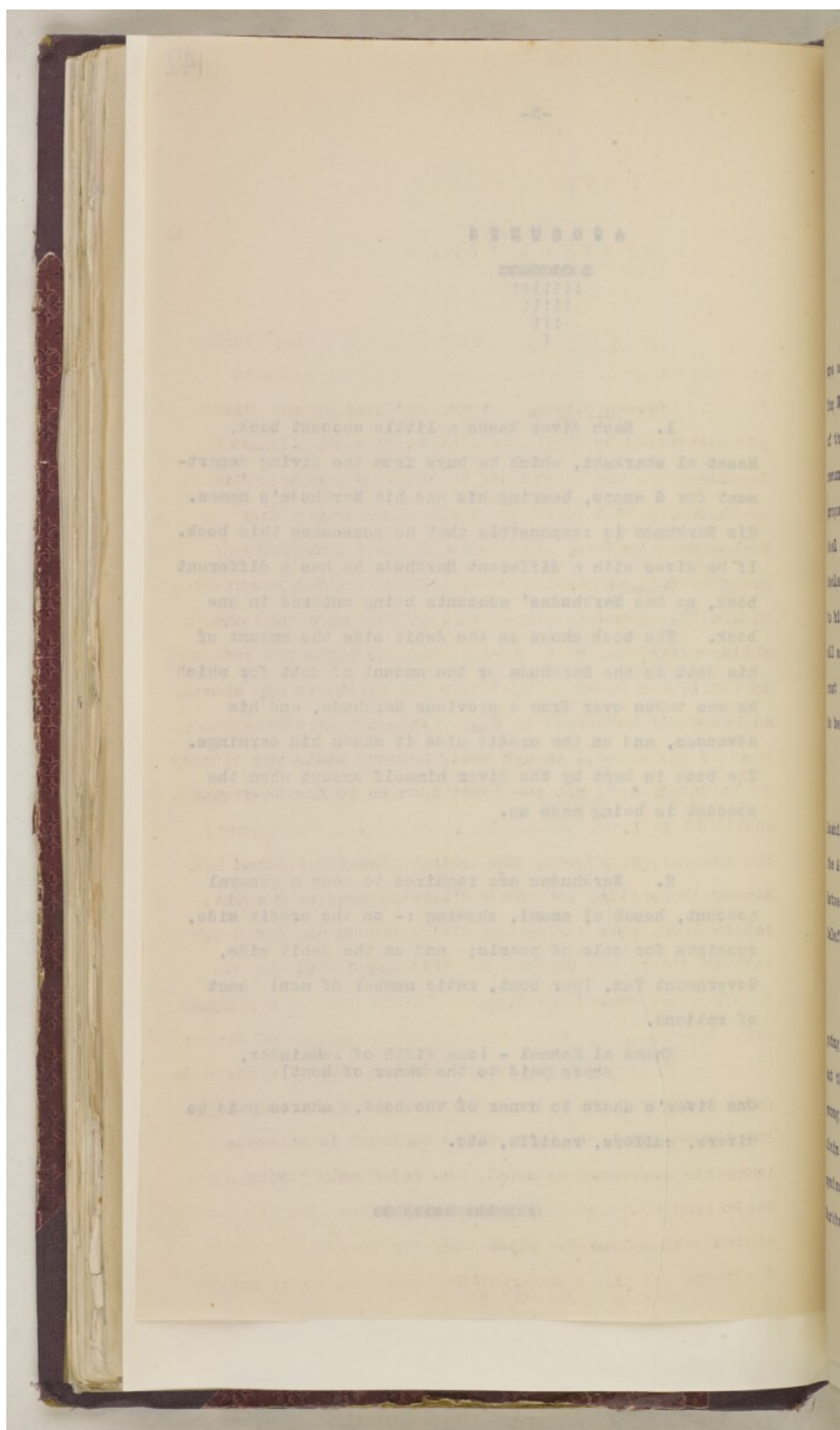
1. Each diver keeps a little account book, Hesab al sharkshi, which he buys from the diving department for 6 annes, bearing his and his Narkhuda's names. His Narkhuda is responsible that he possesses this book. If he dives with a different Narkhuda he has a different book, no two Narkhudas' accounts being entered in one book. The book shows on the debit side the amount of his debt to the Narkhuda or the amount of debt for which he was taken over from a previous Narkhuda, and his advances, and on the credit side it shows his earnings. The book is kept by the diver himself except when the account is being made up.

2. Narkhudas are required to keep a general account, hesab al anusi, showing :- on the credit side, receipts for sale of pearls; and on the debit side, Government Tax, (per boat, ratio number of men) cost of rations.

Khams al Mahmal - (one fifth of remainder, share paid to the owner of boat)

One diver's share to owner of the boat, shares paid to divers, pullers, radiffs, etc.

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GENERAL TERMS

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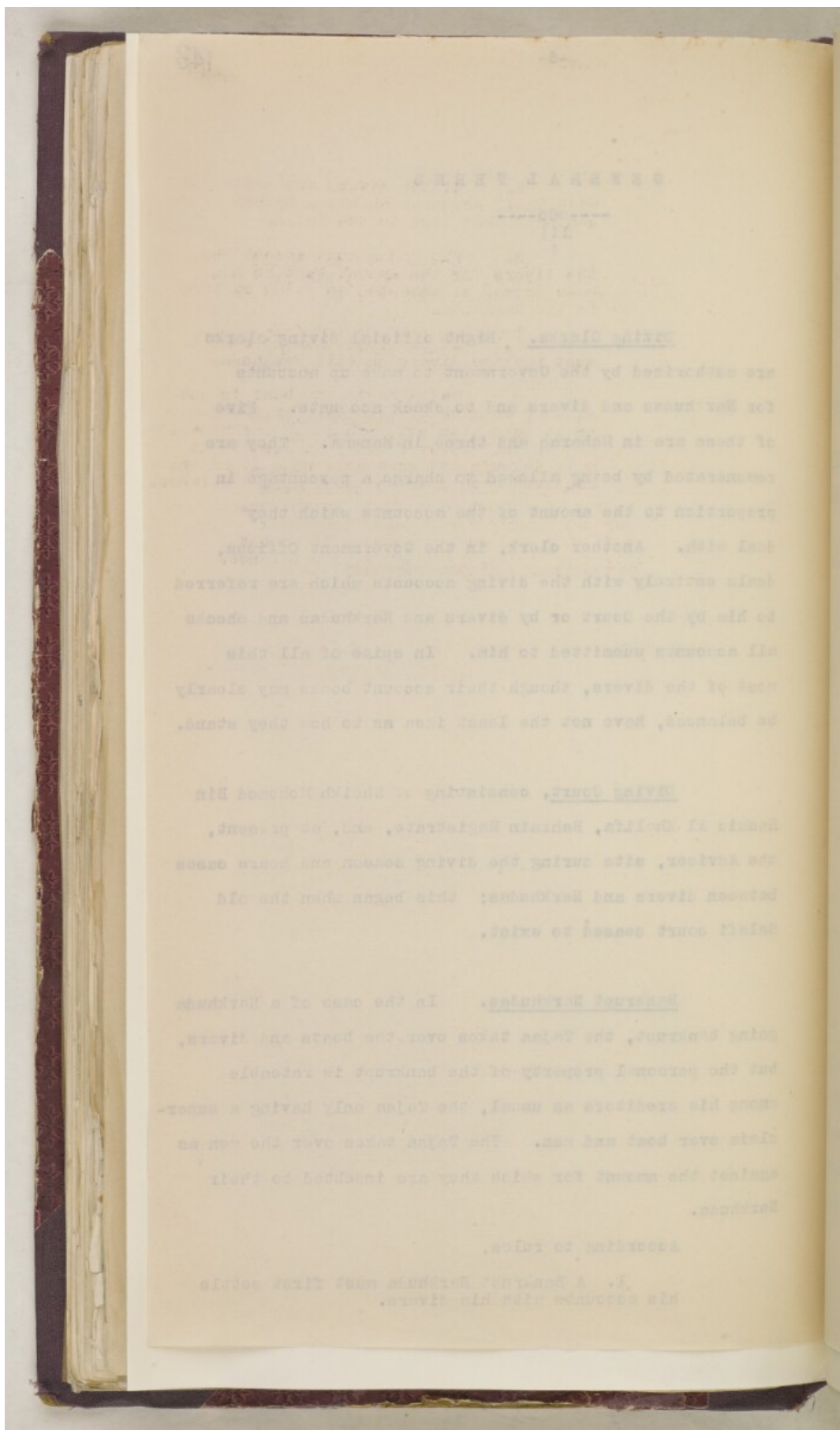
Diving Clerks. Eight official diving clerks are authorized by the Government to make up accounts for Markhudās and divers and to check accounts. Five of these are in Maharaq and three in Manama. They are remunerated by being allowed to charge a percentage in proportion to the amount of the accounts which they deal with. Another clerk, in the Government Offices, deals entirely with the diving accounts which are referred to him by the Court or by divers and Markhudās and checks all accounts submitted to him. In spite of all this most of the divers, though their account books may clearly be balanced, have not the least idea as to how they stand.

Diving Court, consisting of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Bahrain Magistrate, and, at present, the Adviser, sits during the diving season and hears cases between divers and Markhudās; this began when the old Salafi court ceased to exist.

Bankrupt Markhudās. In the case of a Markhudā going bankrupt, the Tajaa takes over the boats and divers, but the personal property of the bankrupt is rateable among his creditors as usual, the Tajaa only having a super-claim over boat and men. The Tajaa takes over the men as against the amount for which they are indebted to their Markhudā.

According to rules,

1. A Bankrupt Markhudā must first settle his accounts with his divers.



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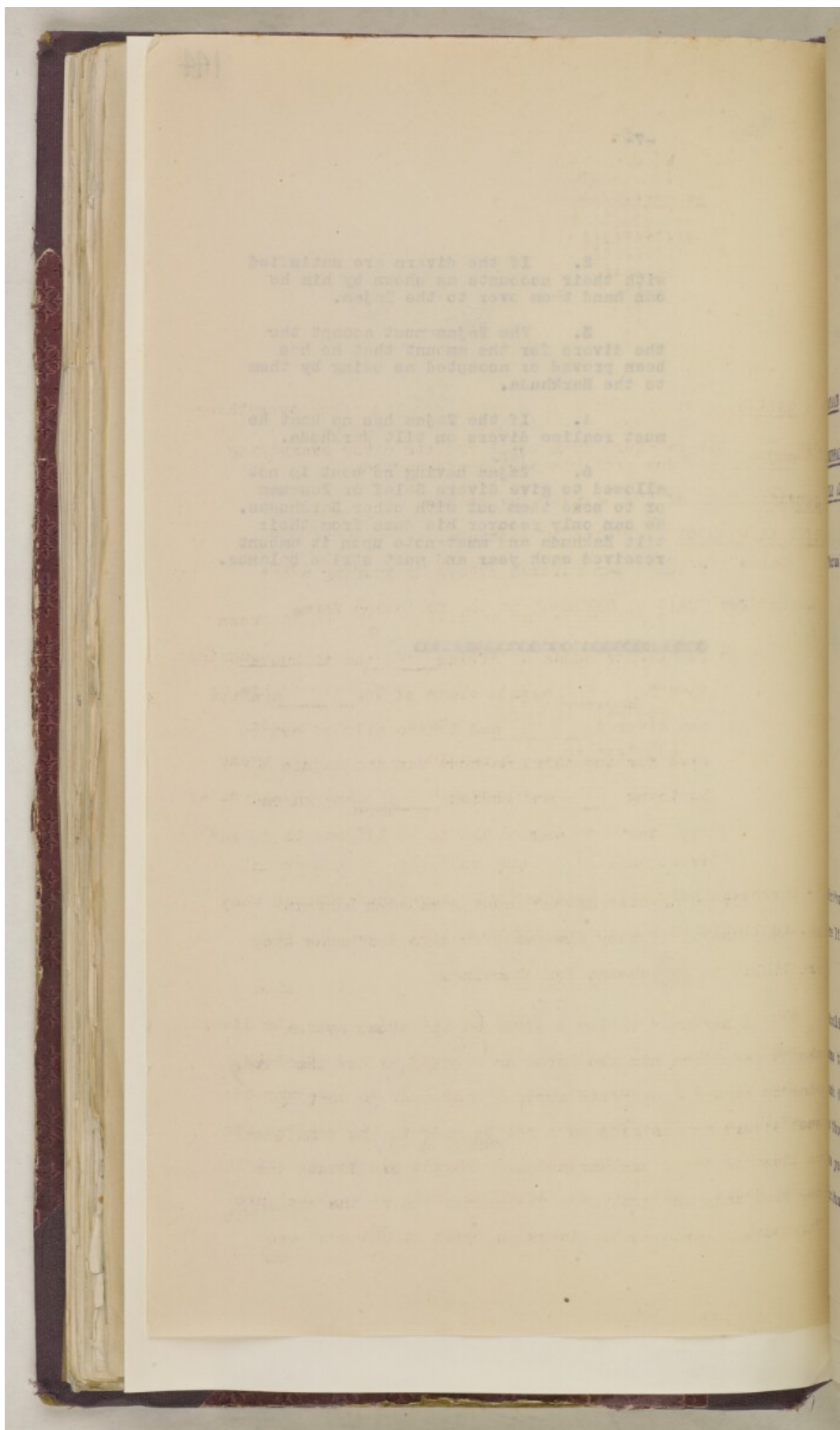
2. If the divers are satisfied with their accounts as shown by him he can hand them over to the Tajee.

3. The Rajas must accept the the divers for the amount that he has been proved or accepted as owing by them to the Narkhuda.

4. If the Tajar has no boat he must realise divers on tilt Markhuda.

5. ^{10/27} ~~Tajaw~~ having no boat is not allowed to give divers Salaf or Tesuam or to send them out with other Markhudas. He can only recover his dues from their tilt Markhuda and must note upon it amount received each year and must strike balance.

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-8-

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MISCELLANEOUS



QATAAN Divers share from total profits after everything due from his has been deducted.

GHUFFAL End of the main diving season.

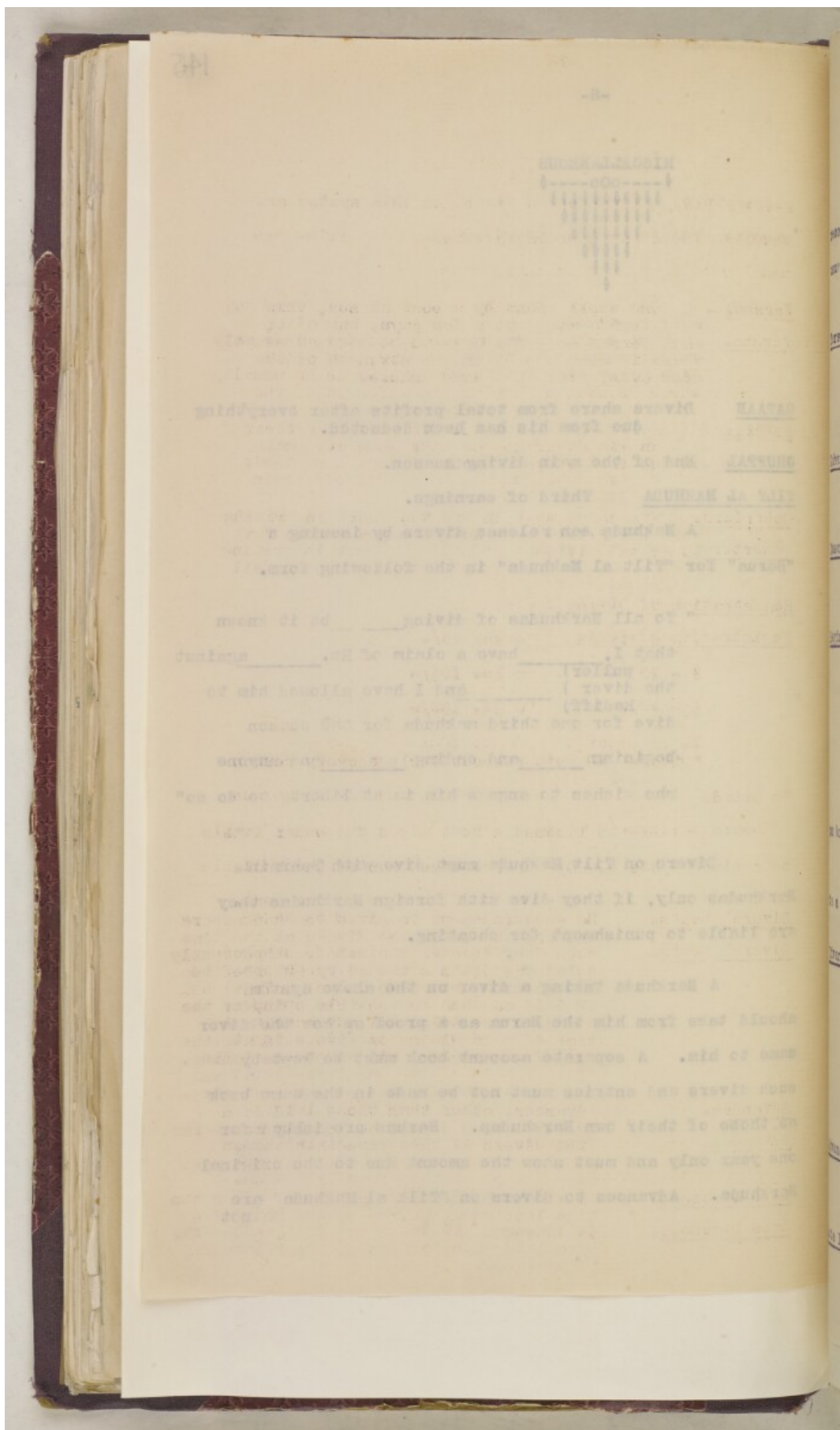
TILT AL MAKHUDA Third of earnings.

A Makhuda can release divers by issuing a "Barua" for "Tilt al Makhuda" in the following form.

" To all Makhudas of diving _____ be it known
that I, _____ have a claim of Rs. _____ against
puller)
the diver) _____ and I have allowed him to
Radiff)
dive for one third makhuda for the season
beginning _____ and ending _____ and anyone
who wishes to engage him is at liberty to do so"

Divers on Tilt Makhuda must dive with Bahrain Makhudas only, if they dive with foreign Makhudas they are liable to punishment for cheating.

A Makhuda taking a diver on the above system should take from him the Barua as a proof as how the diver came to him. A separate account book must be kept by such divers and entries must not be made in the same book as those of their own Makhudas. Baruas are issued for one year only and must show the amount due to the original Makhuda. Advances to divers on "Tilt al Makhuda" are not





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-9-

recoverable. Advances to divers on this system are usually ordered at $\frac{1}{2}$ ordinary rate.

Tersha. One spell spent by a boat at sea, this may vary from a month to a few days, but after each tersha accounts have to be made as usually there is some change in the strength of the crew every time they come ashore.

Muharrum. Markhudas of Shia divers must land their men on 4th Muharrum and take them off again on the 11th of that month.

Deserters. Markhudas must inform the Court in writing when the divers, who have drawn advances fail to go out diving.

Registration of Diving Boats.

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 - 5 divers | @ Rs. 75/- |
| 6 - 15 " | @ Rs. 100/- |
| 16 or upwards | @ Rs. 200/- |

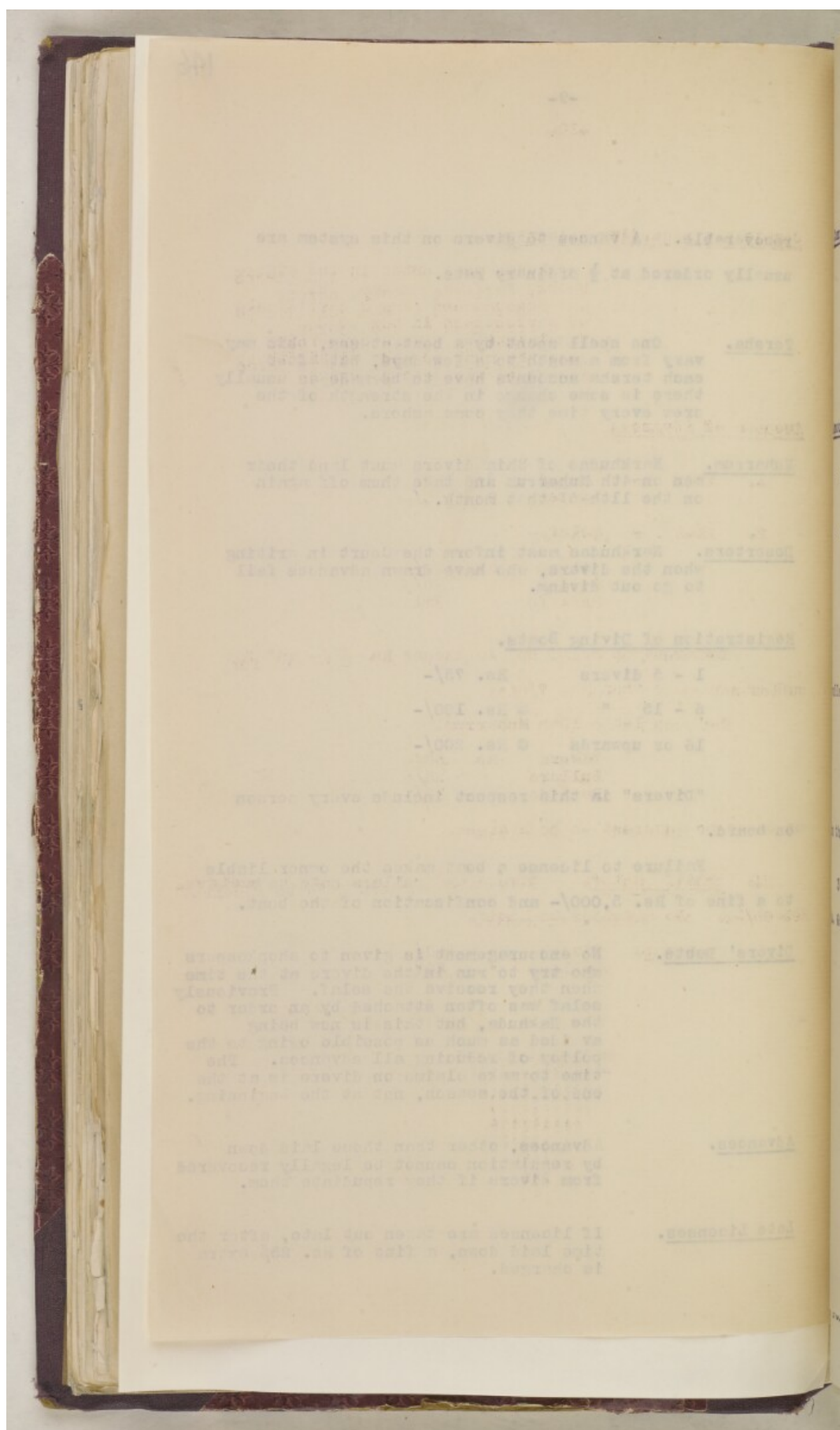
"Divers" in this respect include every person on board.

Failure to license a boat makes the owner liable to a fine of Rs. 5,000/- and confiscation of the boat.

Divers' Debts. No encouragement is given to shopkeepers who try to "run in" the divers at the time when they receive the selaf. Previously selaf was often attached by an order to the Markhuda, but this is now being avoided as much as possible owing to the policy of reducing all advances. The time to make claims on divers is at the end of the season, not at the beginning.

Advances. Advances, other than those laid down by regulation cannot be legally recovered from divers if they repudiate them.

Late Licenses. If licenses are taken out late, after the time laid down, a fine of Rs. 25% extra is charged.





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-10-

Complaints regarding accounts.

Narkhudas must enter in the divers books, Fazilah, Qutan, Selaf, and Tesquam and sign a certificate of correctness in the books. Complaints by divers concerning accounts must be made within three months of the date of entry.

Amounts of Advances, in previous years.

1. 1342 - Divers Rs. 120/-
Pullers Rs. 145/-
2. 1343 - Selaf.-
Divers Rs. 100/-
Pullers 75/-
Radiffs Nil

Interest on Selaf not to exceed Rs. 10/- and for puller not more than Rs. 7/8/-.

Between 1st & 10th Muharrum.

Divers Rs. 50/-
Pullers 25/-
Radiffs 10/-

on these no interest to be charged.

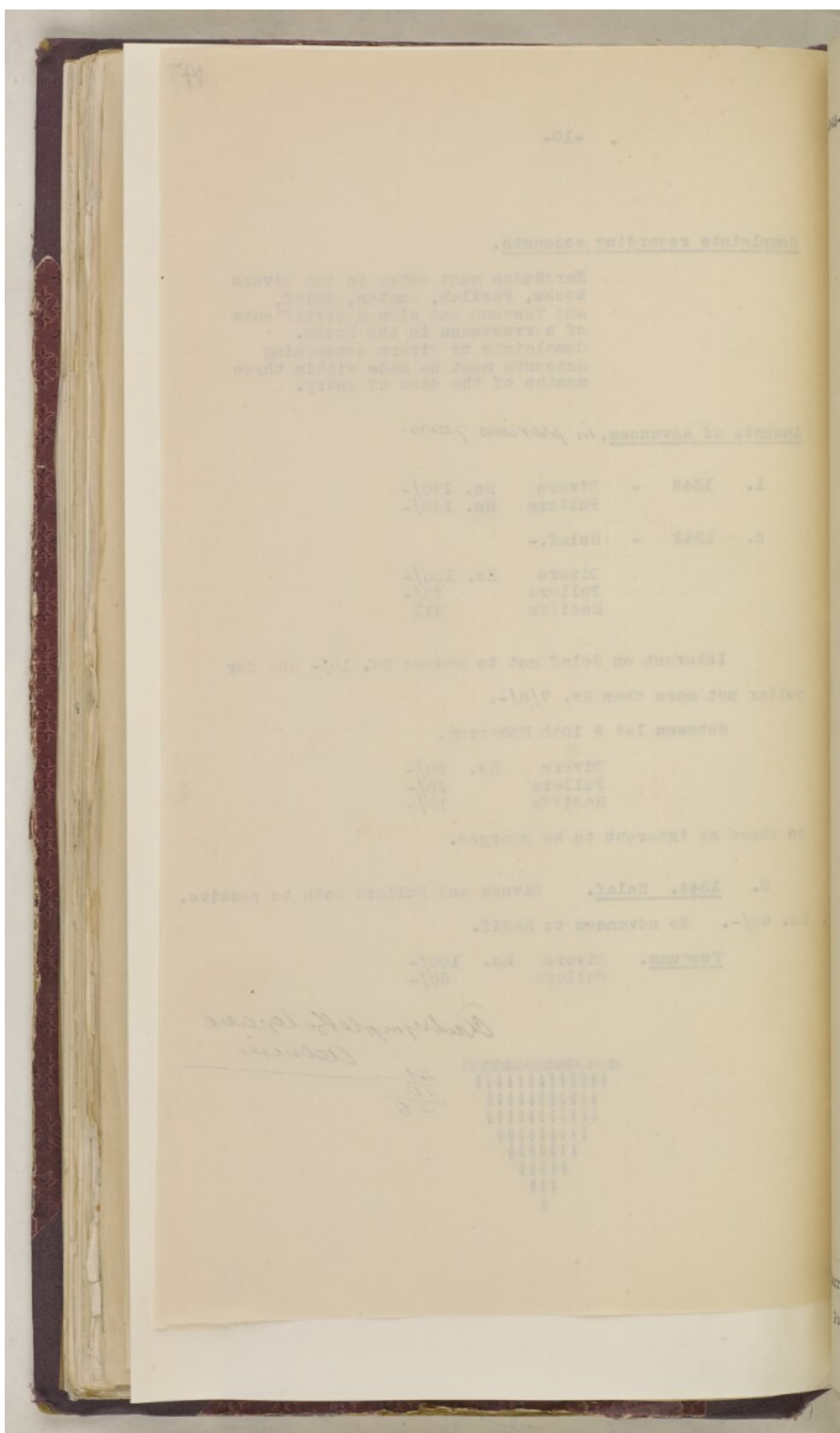
3. 1344. Selaf. Divers and Pullers both to receive. Rs. 60/-.
- No advances to Radif.

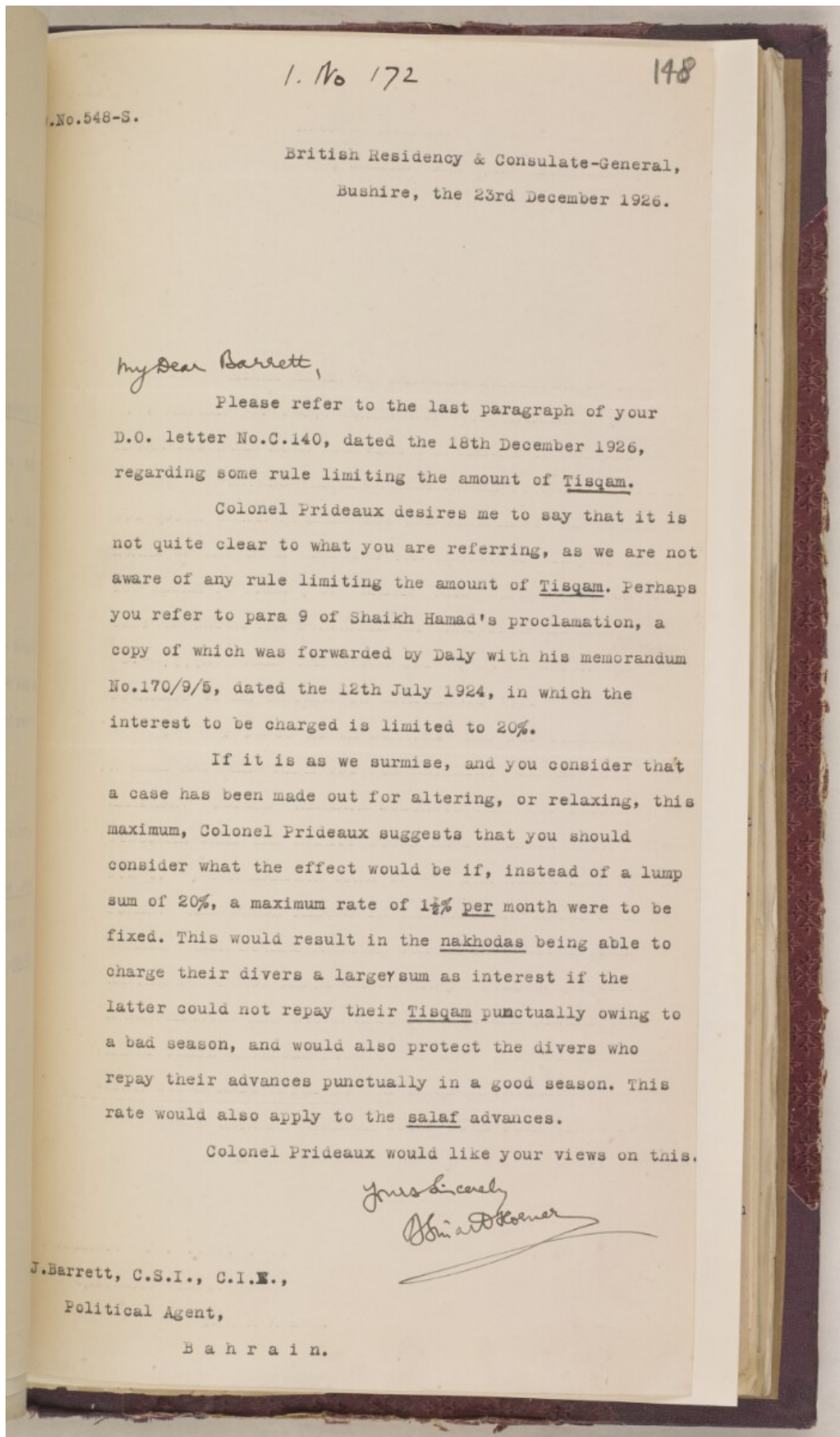
Tesquam. Divers Rs. 100/-
Pullers 80/-

W. Symple Belgrave
Adviser



21
10
26





1. No 172

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No.548-S.

British Residency & Consulate-General,
Bushire, the 23rd December 1926.

My Dear Barrett,

Please refer to the last paragraph of your
D.O. letter No.C.140, dated the 18th December 1926,
regarding some rule limiting the amount of Tisqam.

Colonel Prideaux desires me to say that it is
not quite clear to what you are referring, as we are not
aware of any rule limiting the amount of Tisqam. Perhaps
you refer to para 9 of Shaikh Hamad's proclamation, a
copy of which was forwarded by Daly with his memorandum
No.170/9/5, dated the 12th July 1924, in which the
interest to be charged is limited to 20%.

If it is as we surmise, and you consider that
a case has been made out for altering, or relaxing, this
maximum, Colonel Prideaux suggests that you should
consider what the effect would be if, instead of a lump
sum of 20%, a maximum rate of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ per month were to be
fixed. This would result in the nakhodas being able to
charge their divers a larger sum as interest if the
latter could not repay their Tisqam punctually owing to
a bad season, and would also protect the divers who
repay their advances punctually in a good season. This
rate would also apply to the salaf advances.

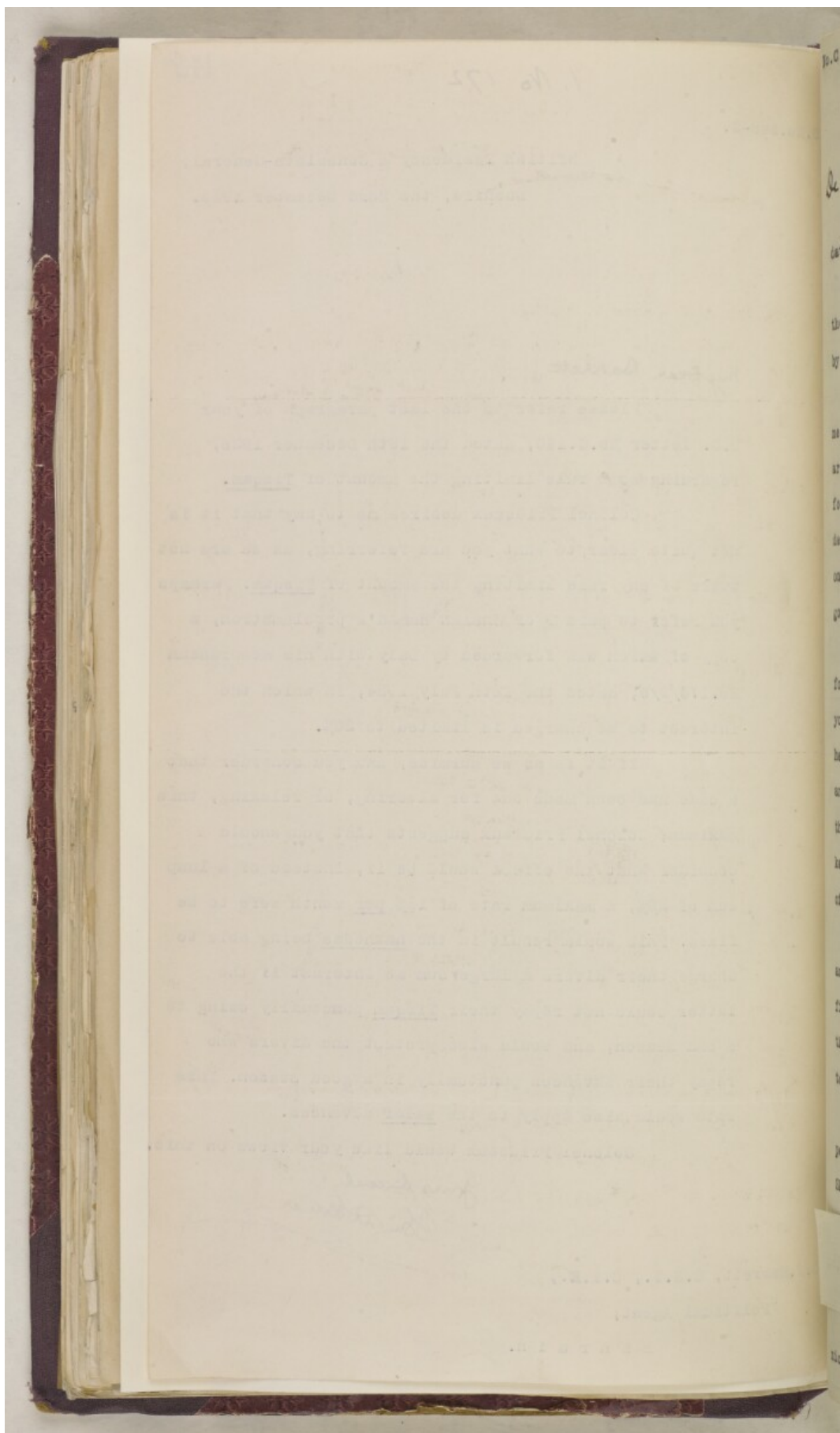
Colonel Prideaux would like your views on this.

Yours sincerely
John A. Keener

J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Political Agent,

B a h r a i n.





D.O. No.C 1

Political Agency, Bahrein.

Date the 1st January ~~1922~~ 1927.

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Dear Hamar

Please refer to your demi-official letter No.548-S.
dated the 23rd December last.

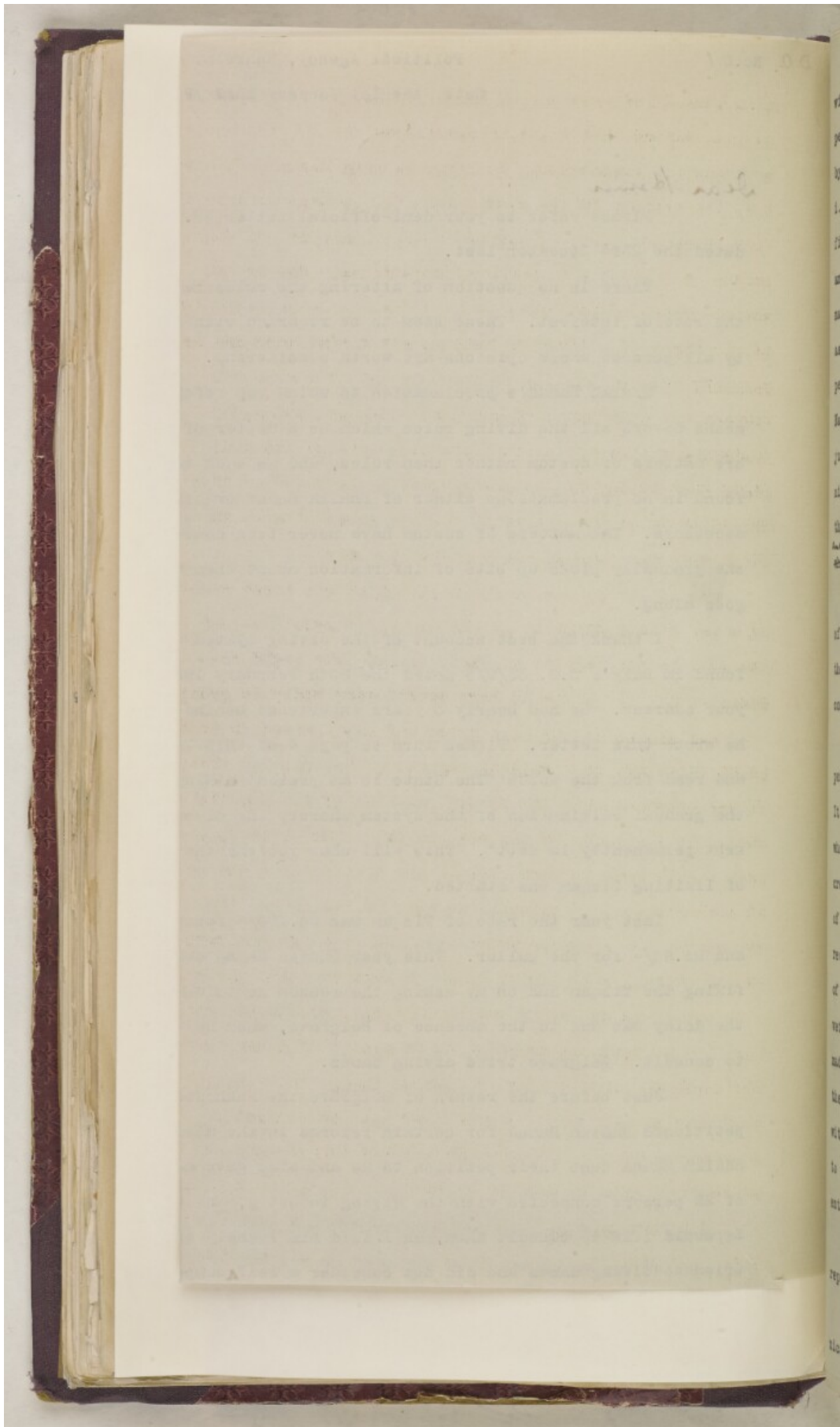
There is no question of altering the rules regarding
the rate of interest. These seem to be regarded with favour
by all persons whose opinions are worth considering.

Shaikh Hamad's proclamation to which you refer by no
means covers all the diving rules which as a metter of fact
are matters of custom rather than rules, and as such to be
found in no proclamations either of Shaikh Hamad or his pre-
decessors. The matters of custom have never been coded and
one gradually picks up bits of information about them as one
goes along.

I think the best account of the diving system will be
found in Daly's D.O. 33/9/5 dated the 20th February 1926 to
your address. He had nearly 5 years experience behind him when
he wrote this letter. Please turn to page 4 of this letter
and read from the words "The State is at present aiming at
the gradual elimination of the system whereby the divers are
kept permanently in debt". This will show you why the system
of limiting Tisqam was started.

Last year the rate of Tisqam was Rs.100/- for the diver
and Rs.80/- for the puller. This year Shaikh Hamad delayed
fixing the Tisqam and on my asking the reason he told me that
the delay was due to the absence of Belgrave, whom he wished
to consult. Belgrave tries diving cases.

Just before the return of Belgrave the Nakhodas
petitioned Shaikh Hamad for certain reforms in the diving rules.
Shaikh Hamad sent their petition to me and also gave me a list
of 22 persons connected with the diving industry, and asked if
I would like to consult them, as I told him frankly that I had
tried no diving cases and did not consider myself a competent
adviser on the customary laws relating to diving. Finally I
selected 5 Arabs and after going through the Nakhodas' Petition





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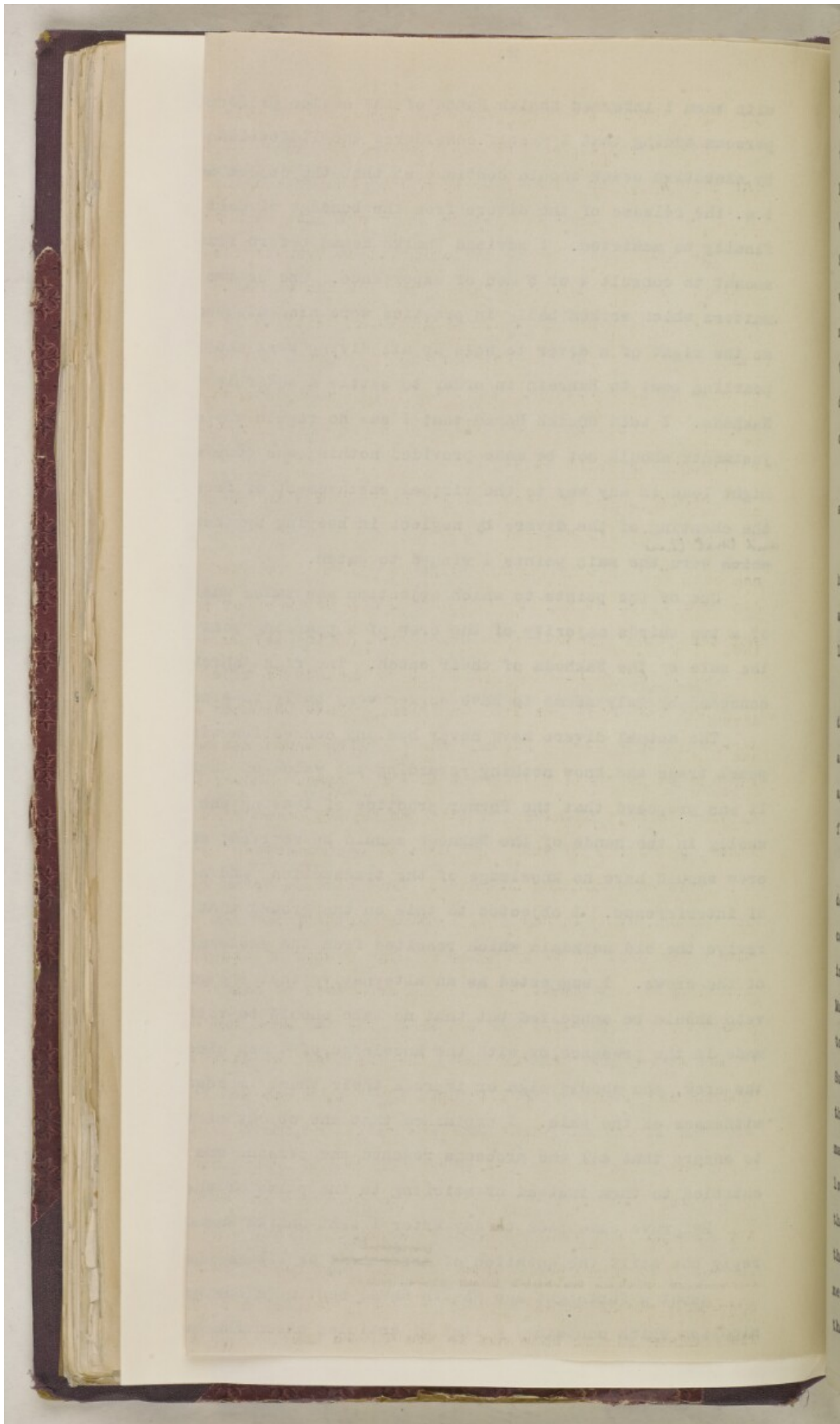
with them I informed Shaikh Hamad of the advice proffered by these persons adding that I myself considered the limitation of Tisqam by executive order should continue so that the object desired i.e. the release of the divers from the bondage of debt should finally be achieved. I advised Shaikh Hamad before fixing the amount to consult 4 or 5 men of experience. One or two other matters which worked badly in practice were also discussed such as the right of a diver to hold up all diving work and bring a pearling boat to Bahrein in order to settle a squabble with his Nakhoda. I told Shaikh Hamad that I saw no reason why minor adjustments should not be made provided nothing was done which might lead in any way to the virtual enslavement of free men or the cheating of the divers by neglect in keeping up their accounts *and that these* which were the main points I wished to watch.

One of the points to which objection was taken was the right of a two thirds majority of the crew of a pearling boat to veto the sale by the Nakhoda of their catch. The right which was conceded by Daly seems to have worked very badly in practice.

The actual divers have never had any connection with the pearl trade and know nothing regarding the value of their catches. It was proposed that the former practice of leaving the sale wholly in the hands of the Nakhoda should be revived, and that the crew should have no knowledge of the transactions and no right of interference. I objected to this on the ground that it would revive the old scandals which resulted from the wholesale cheating of the crews. I suggested as an alternative that the right of veto should be cancelled but that no sale should be valid unless made in the presence, or, with the knowledge, of 4 men elected by the crew, who should sign or impress their thumb impressions as witnesses of the sale. I explained that the object of this was to ensure that all the proceeds reached the persons who were entitled to them instead of sticking to the palms of the Nakhoda.

Belgrave came back ~~the~~ day after I sent Shaikh Hamad this reply but still the question of ^{amount} ~~assessment~~ of Tisqam hung fire.

About a fortnight ago Shaikh Hamad sent me a further communication which contained a list of articles which the Nakhodas





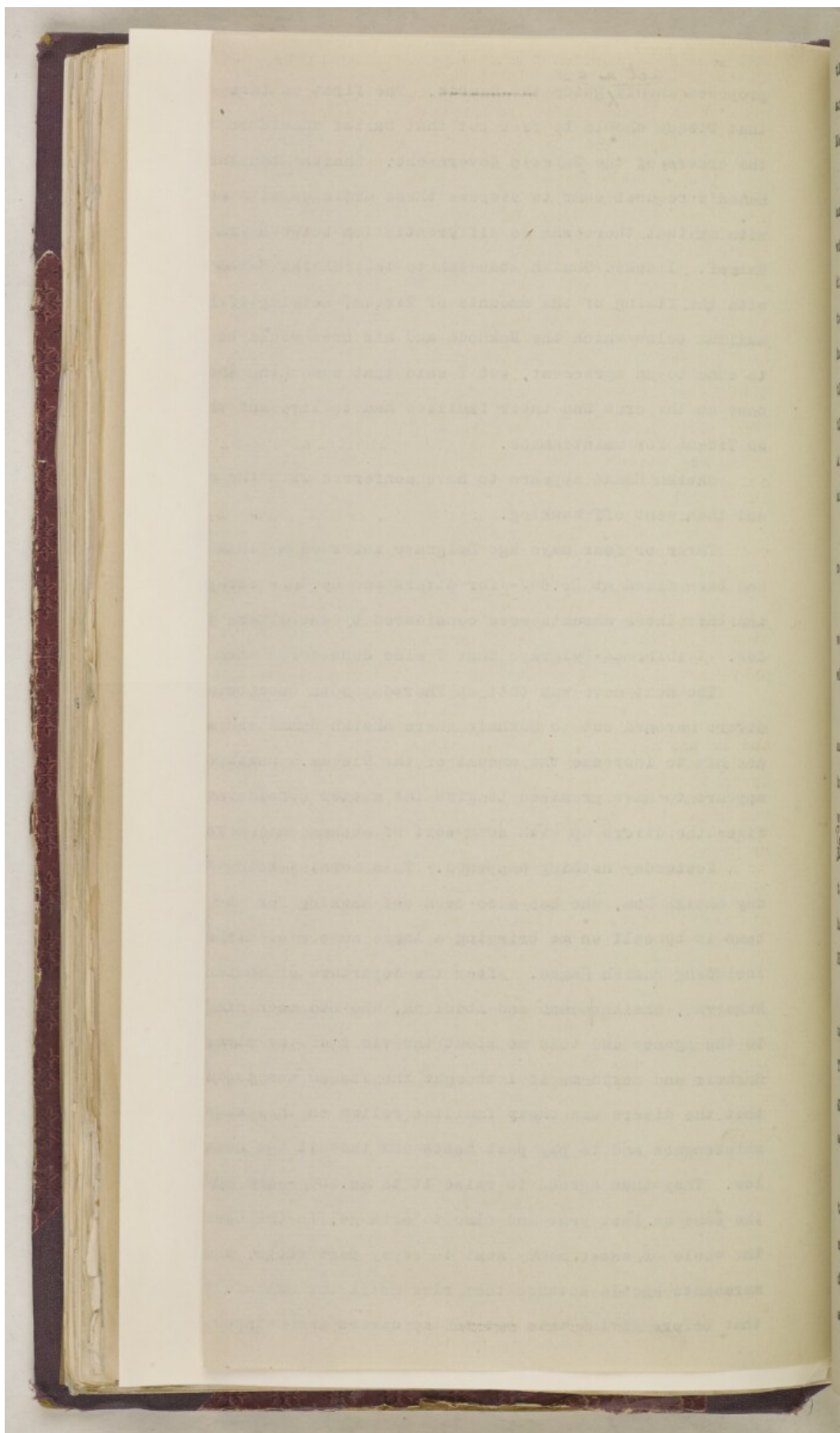
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proposed ^{act as a} ~~should~~ guide the Courts. The first on this list was that Tisqam should be free but that Sallaf should be limited by the orders of the Bahrein Government. Shaikh Abdullah at Shaikh Hamad's request came to discuss these articles with me. He agreed with me that there was no differentiation between Tisqam and Sallaf. I asked Shaikh Abdullah to tell Shaikh Hamad to proceed with the fixing of the amounts of Tisqam, setting if he liked a maximum below which the Nakhoda and his crew would be at liberty to come to an agreement, but I said that something should be done as the crew and their families had to live and they relied on Tisqam for maintenance.

Shaikh Hamad appears to have conferred with the merchants and then went off hawking.

Three or four days ago Belgrave informed me that the Tisqam had been fixed at Rs.80/- for divers and Rs.60/- for pullers, and that these amounts were considered by the divers to be very low. I informed Belgrave that I also considered them too low.

The next move was that on Thursday 30th December about 200 divers marched out to Sukhair where Shaikh Hamad was hawking to ask him to increase the amount of the Tisqam. Shaikh Hamad appears to have promised to give the matter consideration, and fixed the divers up with some sort of accommodation for the night.

Yesterday nothing happened. This morning being New Year day Shaikh Esa, who has also been out hawking for the past week, came in to call on me bringing a large number of his family including Shaikh Hamad. After the departure of Shaikh Esa for Muharraq, Shaikhs Hamad and Abdullah, who had seen him off, returned to the Agency and told me about the visit of the divers to Sukhair and asked me if I thought the Tisqam was too low. I said that the divers and their families relied on the Tisqam for maintenance and to pay past debts and that it was certainly too low. They then agreed to raise it to Rs.100/- and 80/3, being the same as last year and also to arrange, in the case of men, the whole of whose money went to repay past debts, that the merchants should advance them rice until the Sallaf. They said that before giving this out to the divers they wished to inform





the merchants who would make the actual payments, and would 152
arrange for a deputation consisting of 6 divers to meet them on
Monday to hear the decision.

Belgrave was present at the latter end of this interview
and he and Shaikh Hamad departed together for the Customs House,
where they had some work. On arrival there they found the 200
divers assembled waiting for their answer. Instead of speaking
to them himself Shaikh Hamad who was anxious to leave for his
hawking sent them a message by some *underthappen* saying
that he would meet 6 of their representatives on Monday and give
them his reply. He himself drove off in his motor for Sukhair.
After his departure the 200 divers walked into the Manama market
and commenced a little *very minor* looting.

I have not got an estimate of the damage done, but it does
not appear to have been very serious.

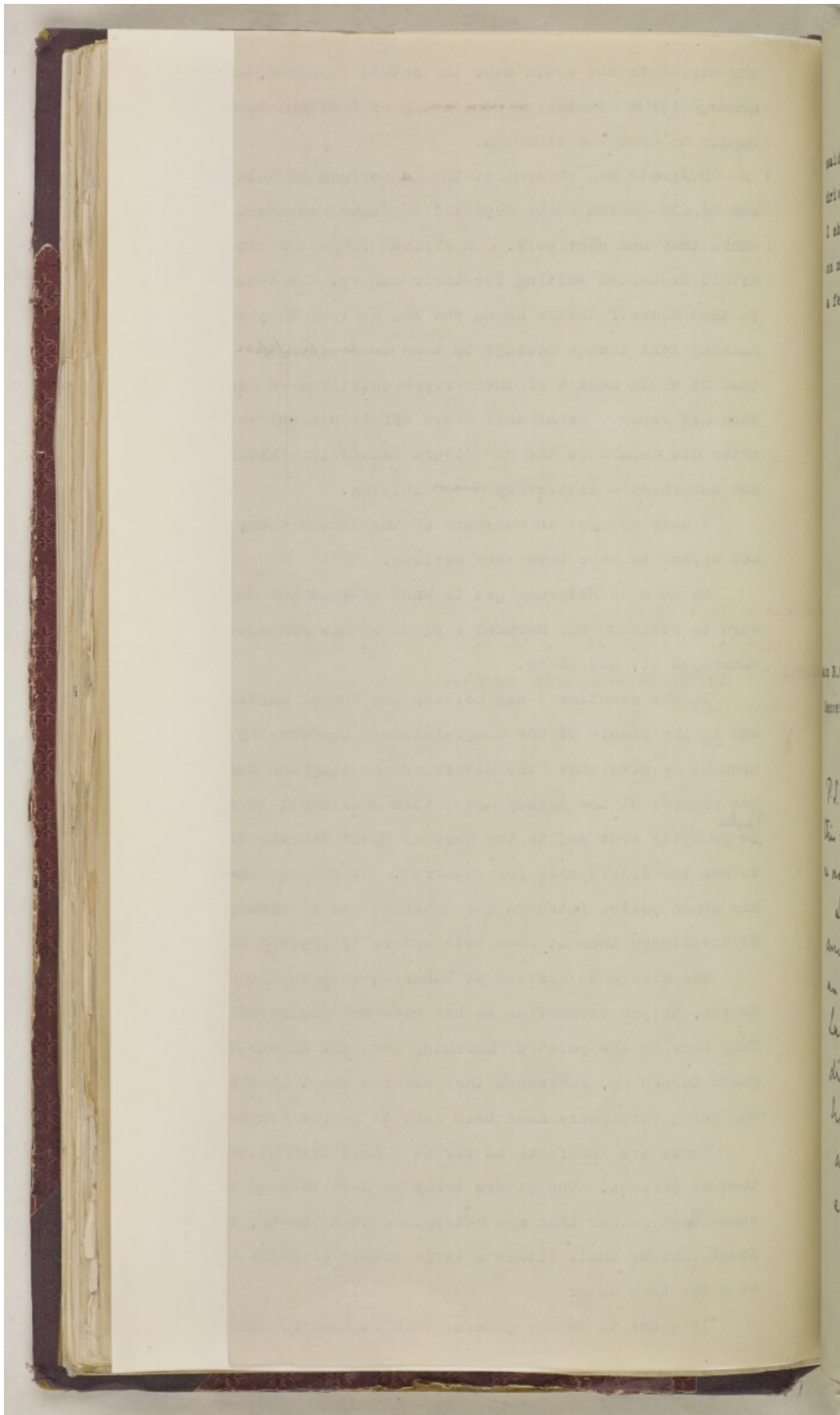
As soon as Belgrave got to know of what was happening he sent
word to Robinson who marched a squad of his men into the bazaar
whereupon all was peace.

In the meantime I was holding the annual majlis at the Agency
and in the middle of the congratulatory speeches my Interpreter
brought me news that "the divers are looting the Bazaar". Parke
was present at the Agency and I told Shaikh Ali to inform him.
Parke
He promptly went off to the Customs House and arrived in time
to see the divers sail for Muharraq. It chanced that a guard of
his armed police intended for Muharraq was all ready to sail.
He despatched them at once with orders to prevent mischief.

The divers on arrival at Muharraq went to the house of an
usurer, helped themselves to his rice and destroyed his records.
They were on the point of marching down the bazaar when Parke's
guard turned up, whereupon they all ran away. Six were arrested
and being foreigners have been sent to me for disposal.

These are the facts so far as I have been able to ascertain
them at present. The divers seem to have behaved like naughty
schoolboys rather than men determined to be nasty, but I have no
doubt that we shall obtain a large number of false claims as well
as a few true ones.

It seems to be the general opinion that if Shaikh Hamad had





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5.

said a few words to the divers himself this morning instead of driving off without speaking to them nothing would have happened. I share this view. I am passing Sukhair myself to-morrow morning on my way to ^{the proposed} ~~Heime's~~ ^{Heime's} site for his oil boring and I hope to have a few words with Shaikh Hamad on the subject.

Ch
2 1/2

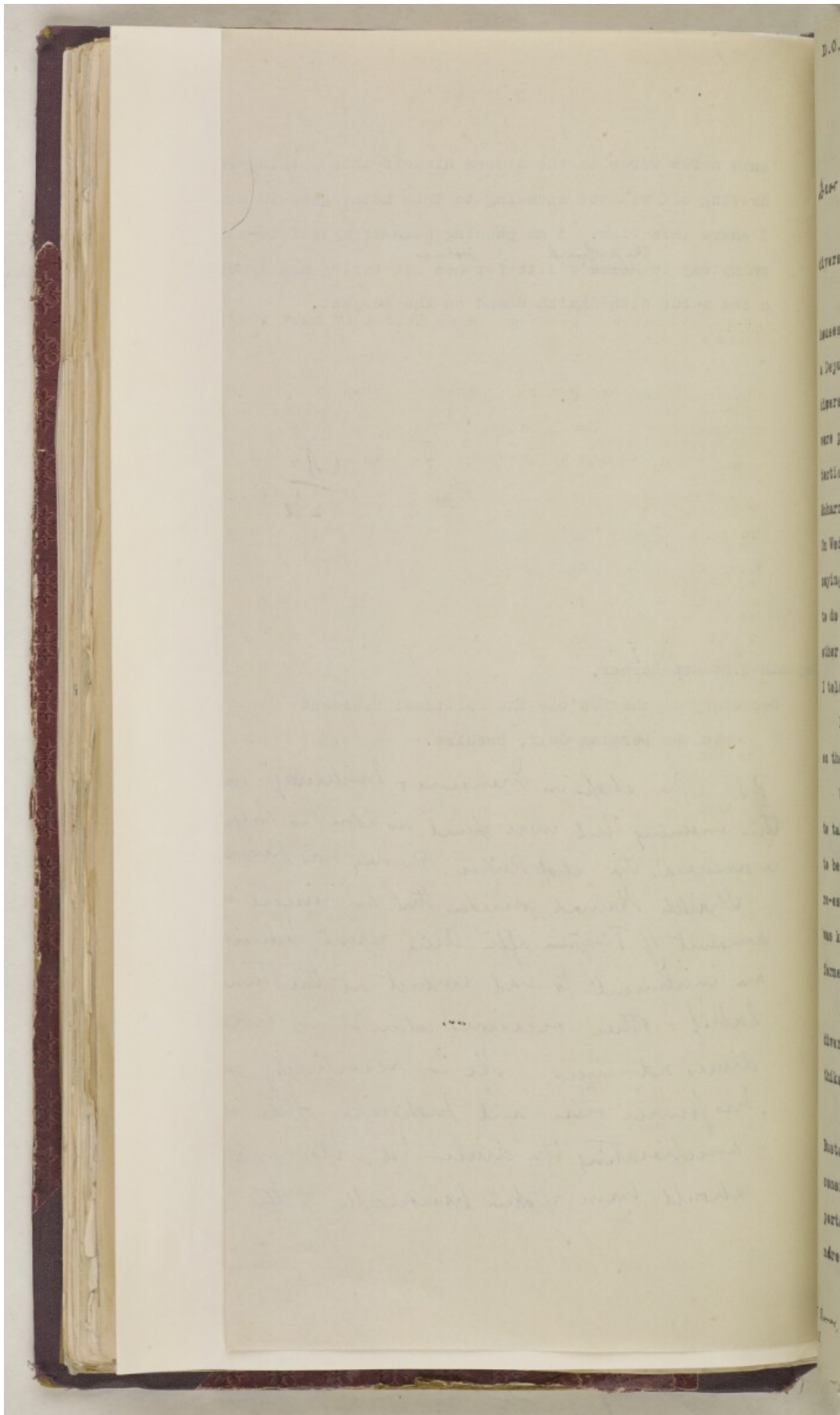
Captain B. Stuart Horner,

Secretary to the Hon'ble the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

P.S. The shops in Manama & Muharraq were closed this morning but were opened as soon as Belgrave & Parker & occurred the shop keeper. The day has passed quietly.

Shaikh Hamad considers that an increase in the amount of Tisgam after their recent behaviour would be an incitement to bad conduct at the time of the Lalf or other occasions when it is usual to pay the divers advances. He is accordingly confirming his former order and proposing other methods of ameliorating the diver's lot. He agrees that he should have spoken personally to the divers.

Ch
2 1/2





D.O.No.C.12.

Political Agency, Bahrein,
Dated the 9th January 1927.

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Dear Horner,

There has been no repetition of the trouble with the divers to which I referred in my No.C-1 of last week.

The Muharraq merchants were timid and shut up their houses and placed guards on them. Eleven of them came to me as a Deputation on Monday saying that though they did not fear the divers they feared the Bilastis or unemployedables who they stated were preparing to attack them that night. They asked for protection. I got Parke to increase the numbers of his police in Muharraq and all was peace.

On Wednesday the Jews came rushing to my office at 10 a.m. saying they had shut their shops fearing attack and requested me to do something. I went down to the bazaar and found all the other shops open even those of Buniahs and everything as usual. I told the Jews to open their shops and not be such fools.

It seems ~~thats~~ that some fellow had played a practical joke on them by galloping past on a denkey shouting "Shut your shops".

We persuaded Shaikh Hamad to come to Muharraq for 3 days to talk matters over with all concerned and now things appear to be in a ~~fair~~ way to settlement. It has been decided to re-establish the Salifa Court about which Colonel Prideaux was keen, but with 4 members instead of the one Nakhuda who formerly had matters all his own way.

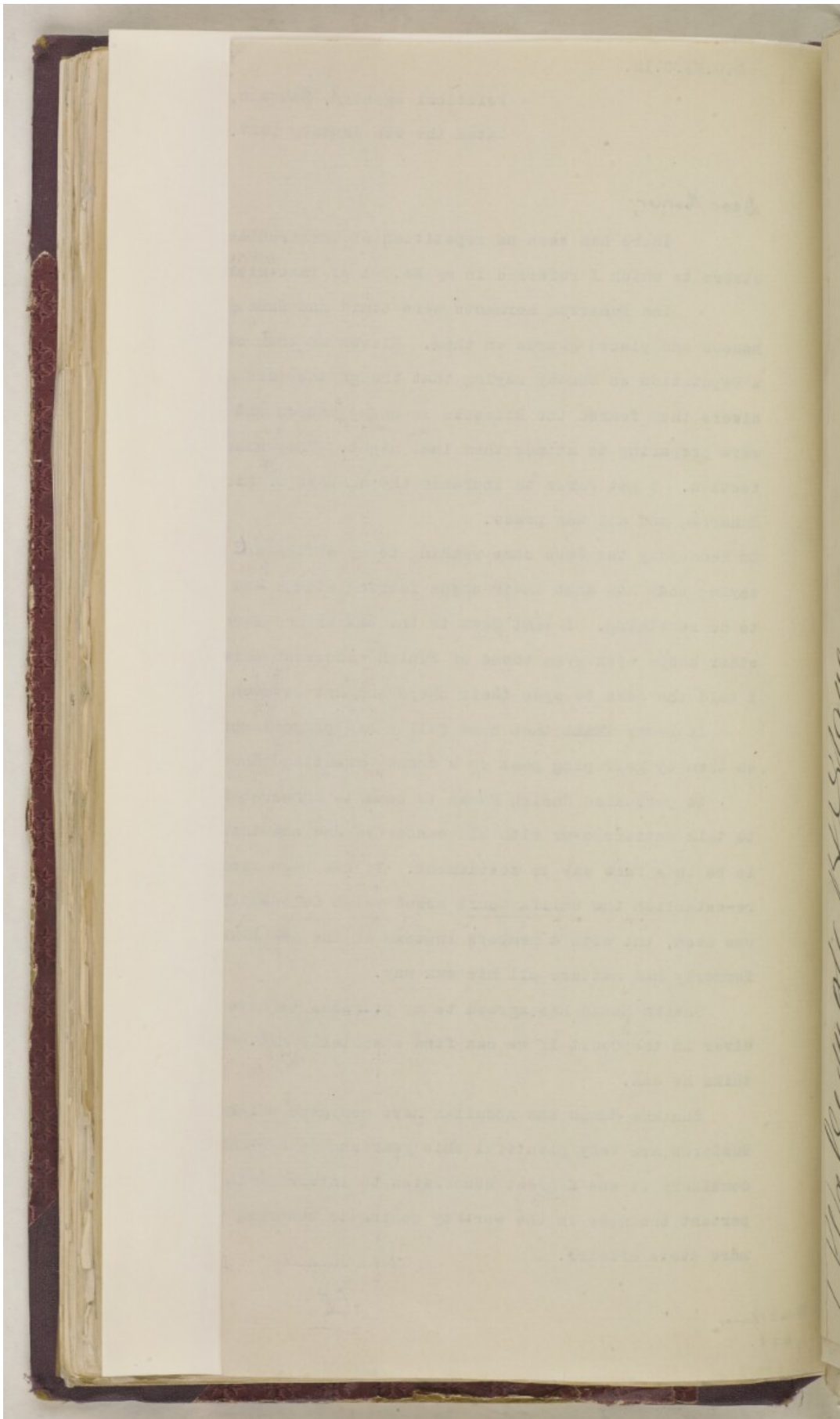
Shaikh Hamad has agreed to my proposal to have a working diver in the Court if we can find a suitable man. Belgrave thinks he can.

Shaikhs Hamad and Abdullah have now gone off hawking again. Bustards are very plentiful this year and I think Shaikh Hamad considers it was a great concession to interrupt the most important business in the world by coming to Muharraq to settle mere State affairs.

Yours sincerely

CB

Edward Horner,
Secy to P.O.





Wabryuple 18/1/1945

Translation of the Government Proclamation
NO:972/17, dated 1st: Dhul Qaad.

All Naukhodas and Jazwas of Bahrain are hereby informed that all the Jazwa should report to their Naukhodas on the 8th: Dhul Qaad 1345 for necessary repairs of the Diving Boats and put them out to Sea (Raggian) and that Dushsha-tul-Ghaus (Setting out for the Diving Grounds) will be on 20th: of Dhul Qad 1345.

Naukhodas are not permitted to advance more than

Rs. 100/- to a Diver and

Rs. 80/- to a Puller

and as to Kharjia it will be payable during the last quarter of the season i.e. on 5th: R/Awwal 1345.

Rs. 25/- to a Diver

Rs. 25/- to a Puller

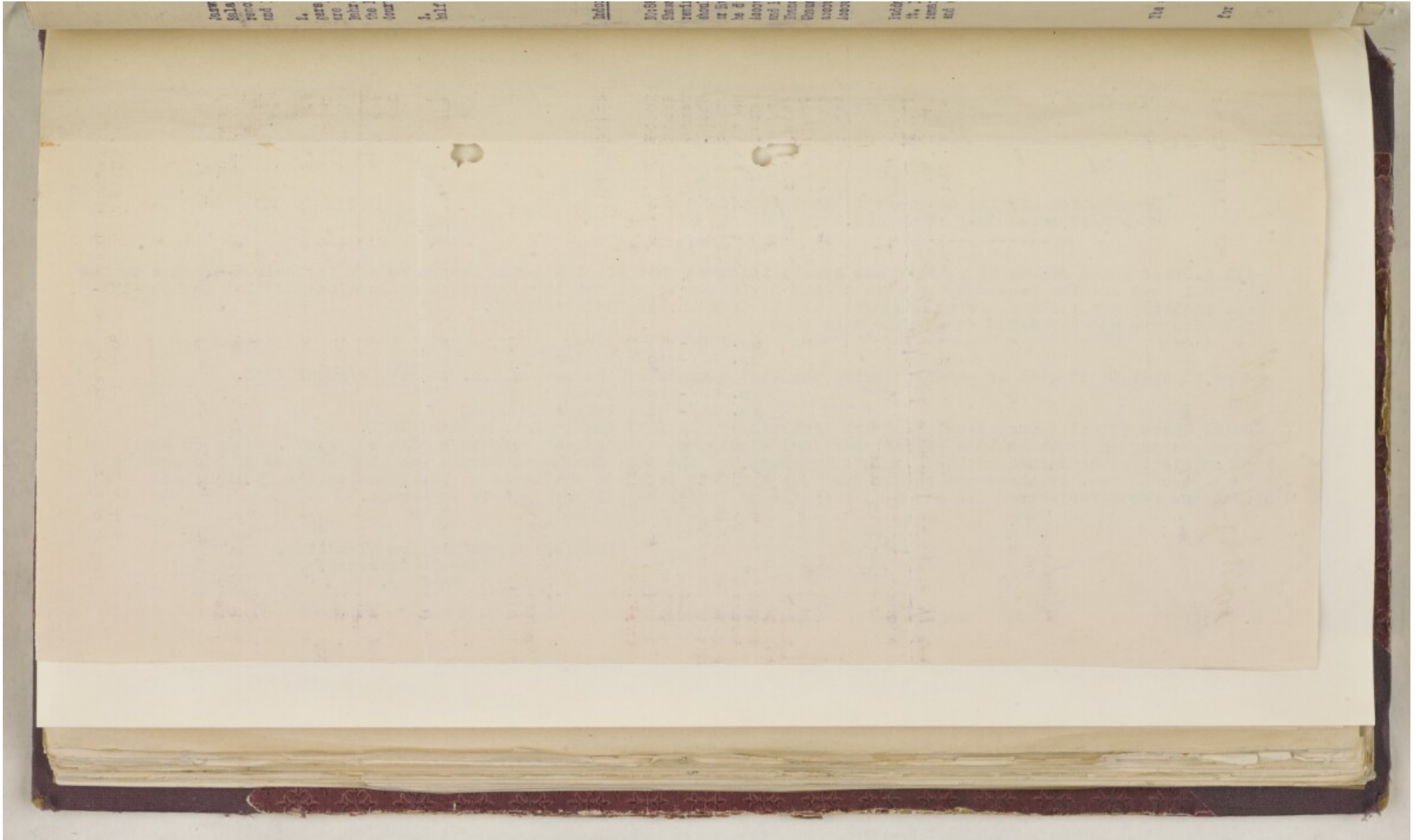
Guffal Ghaus (Final return from the Pearl Fisheries) will fall due on 1st: R/Thani 1345.

Jazwa working on Thult Mukudda (1/3rd: earning) should not be advanced more than allowed herein. Naukhoda shall be responsible for the Jazwa indebted to 1st: Naukhoda, and the 2nd: Naukhodas should see that no dues of his outstand against such Jazwa. If there may remain dues for the 2nd: Naukhoda who takes on the Jazwa on the Thult Mukudda conditions recoverable from the Jazwa at the time of Guffal he will not get it as a rule.

(Sealed) Hamad bin Isa Alkhalifa,
Deputy Governor,
Bahrain.

3.

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Translation of the Government Proclamation
NO:996/IE, dated, 8th: Dhul Qaad 1345.

It is hereby notified for information of the Jazwa Ghaus in Bahrein that if any person may receive Salaf from his Naukhoda and run away the Naukhoda should report to the Court who will bring the absconder back and punish him.

2. Naukhodas of all boats and launches carrying passengers between Bahrein and other ports in the Persian Gulf are hereby warned that transport of Jazwa Ghaus from Bahrein is forbidden until Dusha-tul-Ghaus or in case the Rafiq holds a Barba Khalabi from his Naukhoda or the Court.

3. Naukhodas should advance Salaf to a Radif only half the amount paid to a diver and not more.

(Sealed) Hamad bin Isa Alkhalifa,
Deputy Governor,
Bahrein.

Endorsement

In continuation of the Public Notice issued NO:887/17 issued by the Government Bahrein on 27th: of Shawal 1344, all Naukhodas Ghaus of Bahrein are hereby reminded that Khanchia and Rudda accounts of a Rafiq should be noted in his Account Book. If the Rafiq Khanchia or Rudda may not be one of the Jazwa Ghaus of the Naukhoda he dives with the Naukhoda should grant him a separate Account Book and note therein his accounts of Khanchia and Rudda but should not write down his accounts of the Khanchia or Rudda in his Book of Accounts with his Naukhoda Ghaus. Also it is required that his Khanchia and Rudda accounts should be maintained in the similar way as Ghaus Accounts.

Any amount of Salaf to Jazwa Khanchia or Rudda will be on the risk of the Naukhodas who advance it. It is unlawful and undesirable that a Rafiq should remain in debts to his Naukhoda Khanchia or Rudda by the end of the seasons - Khanchia & Rudda-.

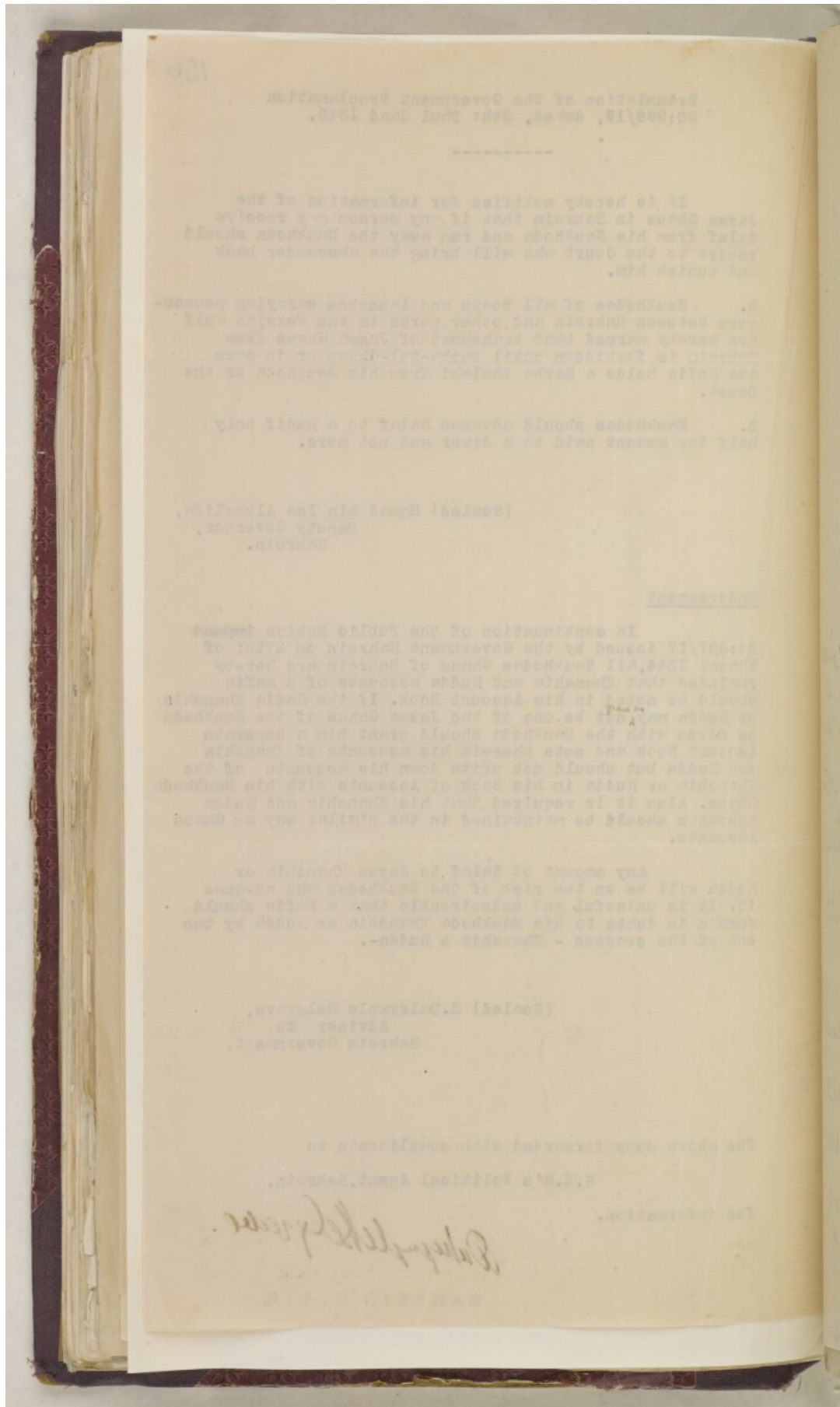
(Sealed) C. Dalrymple Belgrave,
Adviser to
Bahrein Government.

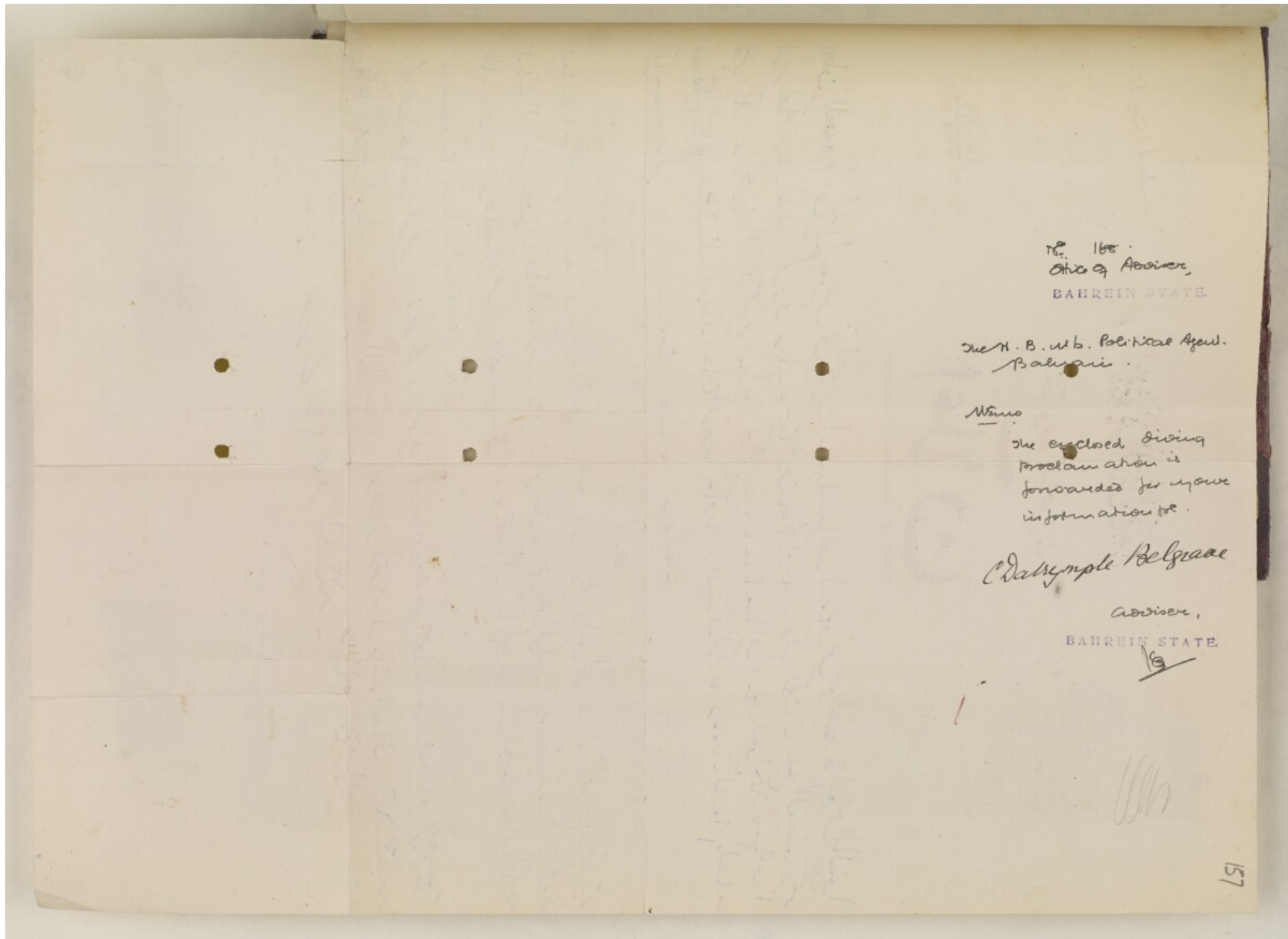
The above copy forwarded with compliments to

H.B.M's Political Agent, Bahrein,

for information.

C. Dalrymple Belgrave
ADVISER
BAHREIN STATE.







الى بيت الدولة -

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

حكومة البحرين

إعلان

١٥٦/١٧
١٣٤٦

نعلم للعموم من اهل الفوس في البحرين انه بلفنا ان بعض من نواخذة البصير لافوا
ادار الحكومة باعطاء الجزوى زيادة غمما قررتة الحكومة . وكذا كان في بيع البصير والتمير
وغير ذلك على الجزوى الذي ممنوع هذا من الحكومة . ثانيا بلفنا ان بعض النواخذة سافوا
نظام دلف ٣٤٥ زيادة على قررتة الحكومة . فحين ان الحكومة رخصت النظام دلف

كاسيد روح غيب حبيب رفيف
نظام ٨٠ سلف ١٠٠
٥٠١ ٨٠١ ١٠٠١

فعلية بأمر جميع النواخذة ان يتدلون من دفاترهم ودفاتر الجزوا من بين البصير والتمير وغير
ذلك الى المرفق من الحكومة وعازا من المبالغ المرفقة من الحكومة يكون يتقيد على الجزوى
طلب دمه ليرطبت غرض . وفي المستقبل ممنوع جميع الاشياء التي ليست مشرعة من الحكومة
ان تتقيد في عايات الجزوى .

فكل من يخالف الامر ويظهر الجزوى غير المرفق به من الحكومة بحاجا انظامه مبالغ رخصه
عاجل فاهم من الزيادة . وقفال الفوس يكون في ههول نشو الثاني ٣٤٦

عن الشيخ محمد بن الشيخ عيسى اخطيه

المفتي

حكومة البحرين

حر في ٢٥ صفر ١٣٤٦

C. Darvynple Belgrave



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To Khan Sahib Murga Ali.

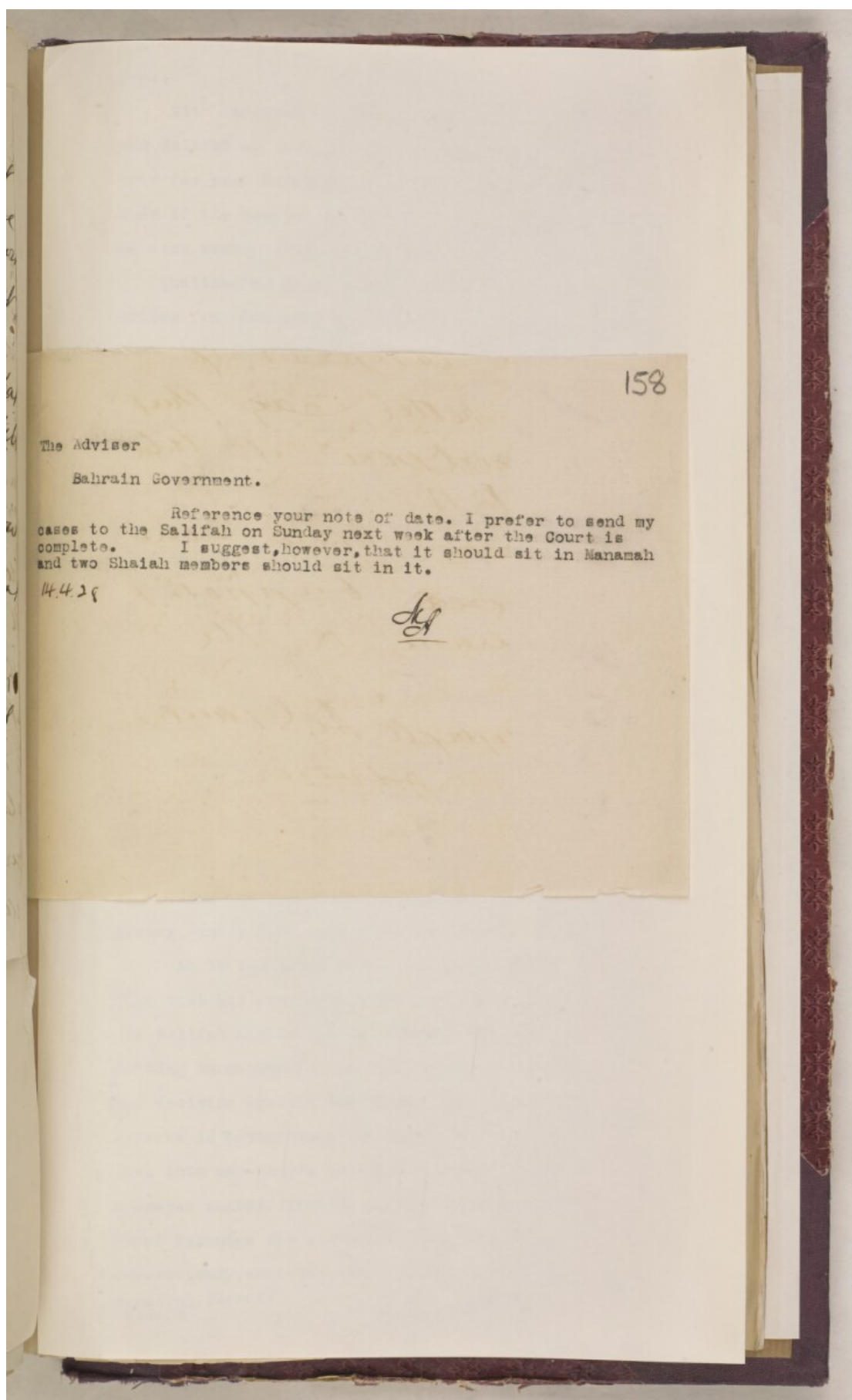
H.E. Sh. Hamed has appointed
two persons, Khalifa bin Shai
& Walid Zaid, under the presidency
of Sh. Moud bin Sh. Abdullah bin
Dait as a Diving Court at
Mutarrak on Sundays, Tuesdays
& Wednesdays at 1 o'clock Arabian
I do not know what the P.H.
will think of this & I shall
suggest to him on his return
that he increase the Court
by one or two members on
behalf of the Agency as the
Court will hear mixed &
Agency cases.

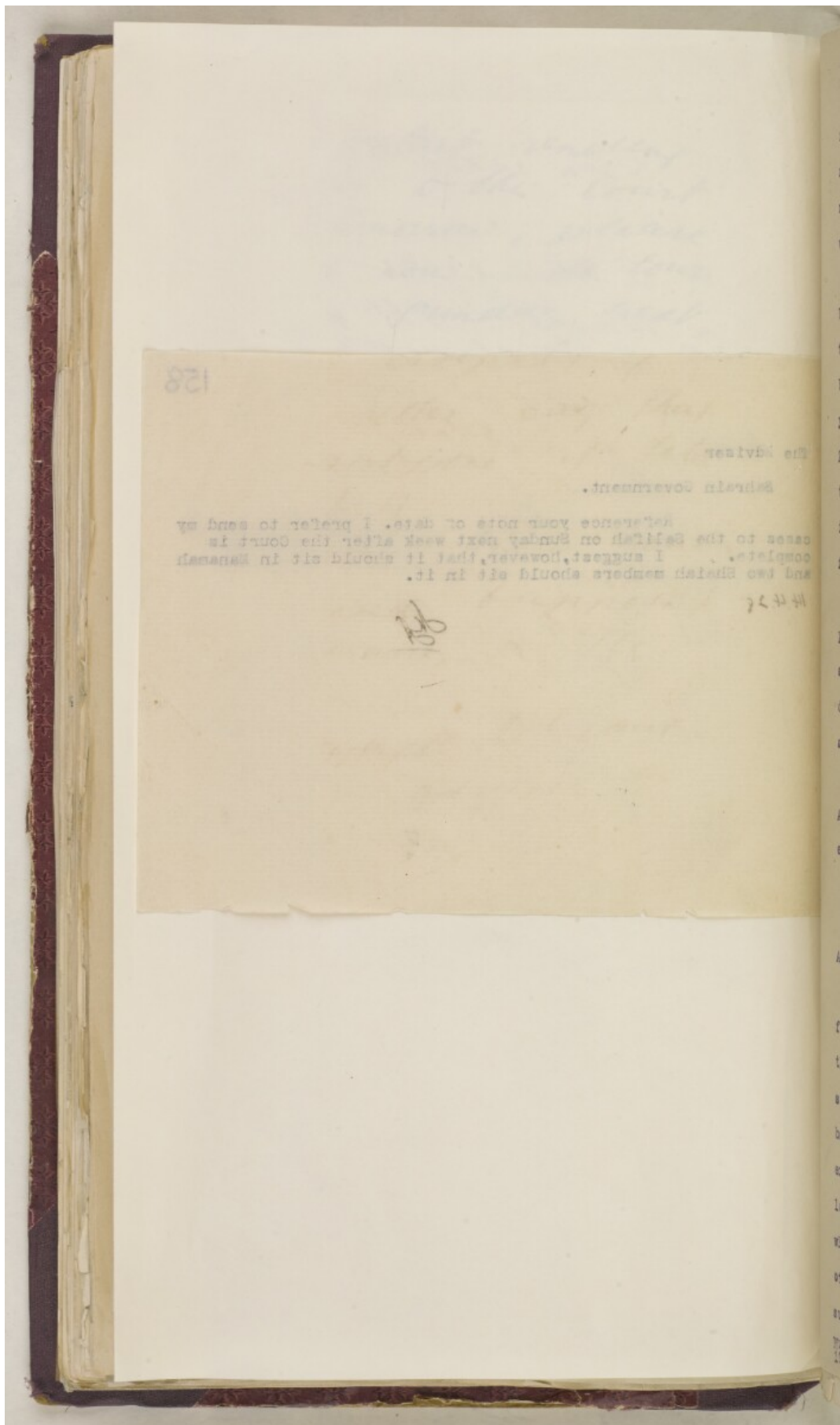


If you care to start sending
in diving cases to the Court
on Sunday tomorrow, please
let me know now. The Court
is to start on Sunday next,
if you send cases. Or, if
you think it better, say that
you will postpone it till
return of P.A.

Please let me know now
It is proposed to appoint
a Shia Bahraini on the
Court also

Chakraborty P. S. S. S.
Adviser







P.A.,

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With reference to the attached notes regarding the new Salifat ul Ghous, I take the liberty to submit this note for your information as I presume it will help us much if the Salifah is formed from good persons before we come across difficulties later on:-

Khalifah Bu Qais is said to be in the habit of taking bribes from Nakhudas and encumbering divers ~~for~~ with any debt that their Nakhudas want them to be put under. I hear he has been dismissed from the Salifat ul Ghous some five or six years ago for his openness to bribery. Haji Abdur Rahman Ziani and Haji Ali bin Saqar with several other merchants told me, when they said that a new Salifat ul Ghous was in the course of formation, that Khalifah is not suitable for his post.

This being the case I think he is not suitable for the post and might do divers in the eye when appointed. His appointment is left to the Bahrain Government but the drawback which made me to inform you about him is as above.

With regard to the two men to be appointed by the Agency, I suggest that the following persons should be appointed, if you deem it advisable:-

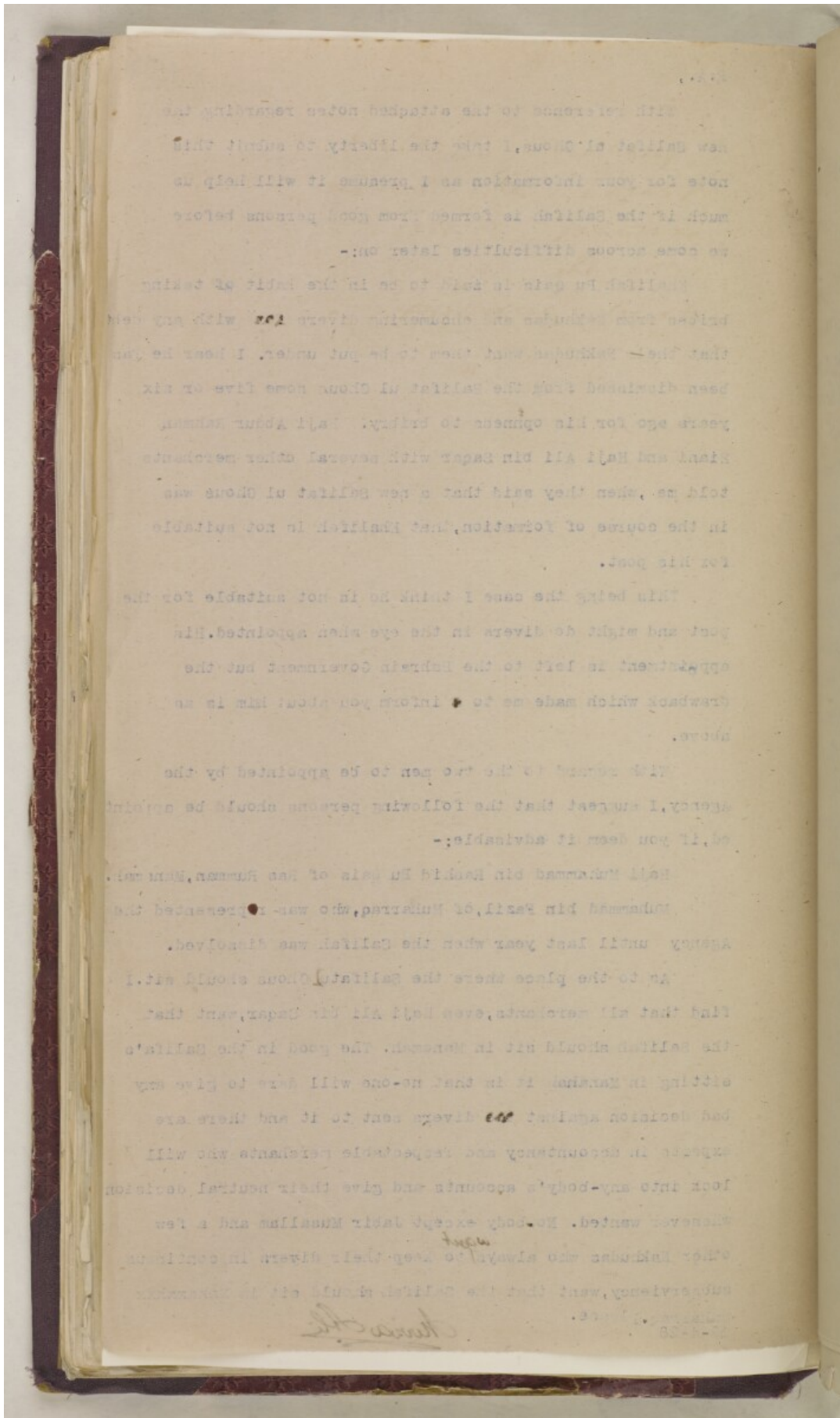
Haji Muhammad bin Rashid Bu Qais of Ras Rumman, Manamah.

Muhammad bin Fazil, of Muharraq, who was represented the Agency until last year when the Salifah was dissolved.

As to the place where the Salifat ul Ghous should sit, I find that all merchants, even Haji Ali bin Saqar, want that the Salifah should sit in Manamah. The good in the Salifa's sitting in Manamah it is that no-one will dare to give any bad decision against ~~the~~ divers sent to it and there are experts in accountancy and respectable merchants who will look into any-body's accounts and give their neutral decision whenever wanted. No-body except Jabir Musallam and a few other Nakhudas who always ^{want} to keep their divers in continuous subserviency, want that the Salifah should sit in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Muharraq, please.

19-4-28

Murid Ali





160

Bahrein, 22nd April 1928.

Dear Belgrave,

I see that Sheikh Hamad appointed the Diving Court during my absence in Qatar. Last year he consulted me as to its composition. In the matter of the Majlis ut Tajara I consented to waive my right to appoint half the members reserving only the right to veto any member of the Court.

In the case of the Salifah Court no exact procedure is laid down, but I presume there will be Foreign representatives.

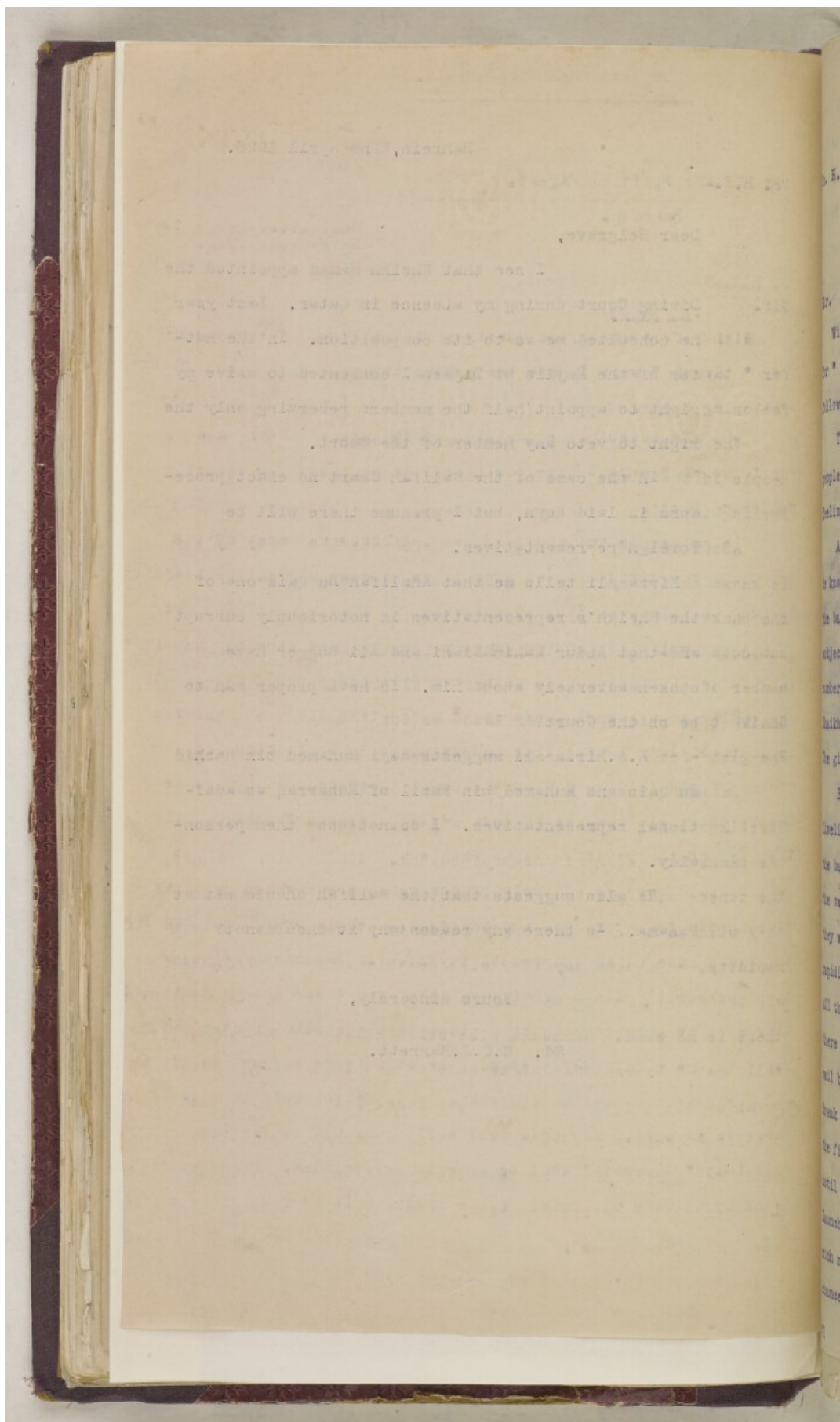
Mirza Ali tells me that Khalifah Bu Qais one of the Sheikh's representatives is notoriously corrupt and that Abdur Rahim Ziani and Ali Sagger have spoken adversely about him. Is he a proper man to be on the Court?

K.S. Mirza Ali suggests Haji Muhamed bin Rashid Bu Qais and Muhamed bin Fazil of Muharraq as additional representatives. I do not know them personally.

He also suggests that the Salifah should sit at Manama. Is there any reason why it should not?

Yours sincerely,

Sd. C.C.J. Barrett.





The Government of Bahrain.

No. 868
Dated... 23/4/28

To. H.B.M's Political Agent.
Bahrain.

Sir.

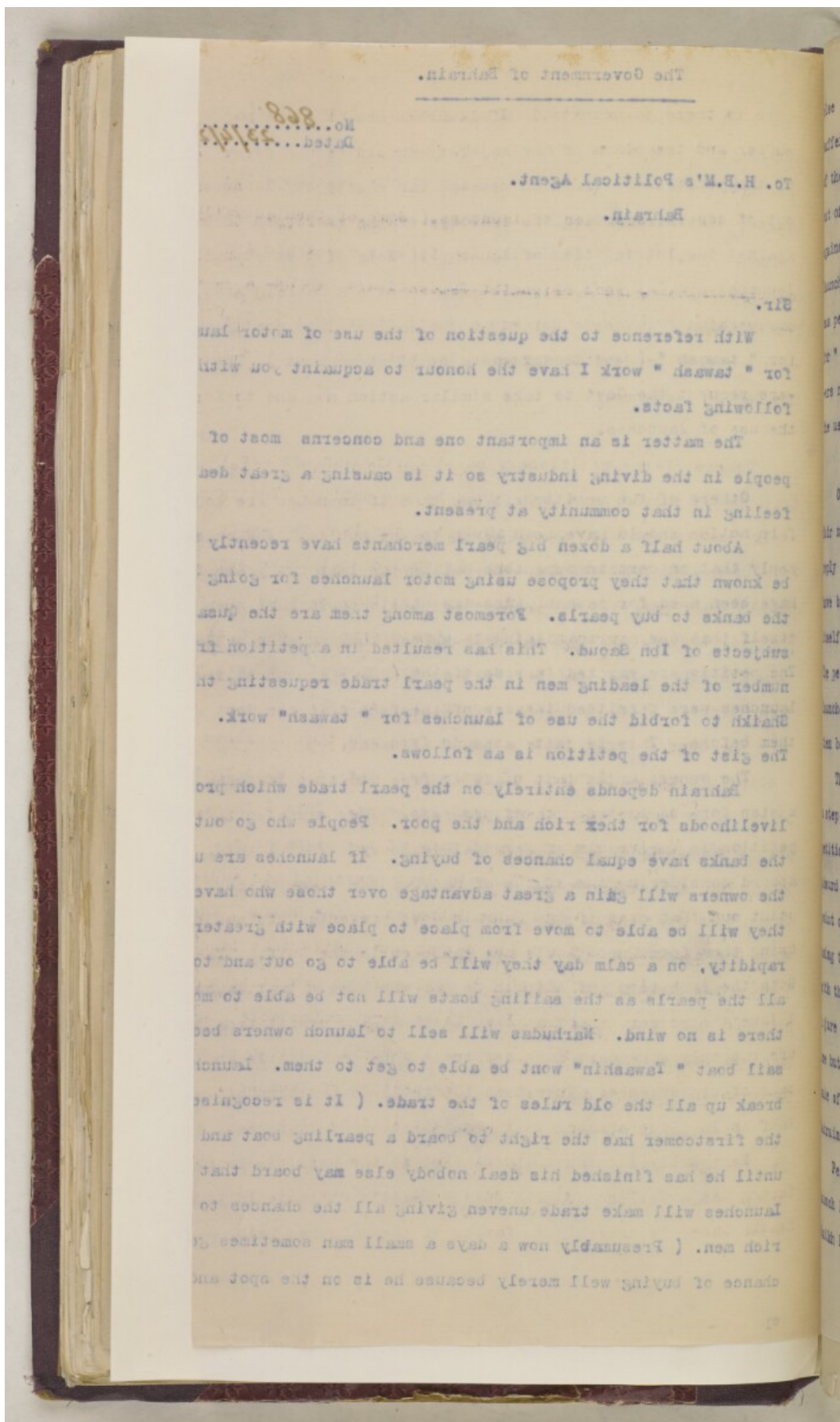
With reference to the question of the use of motor launches for " tawash " work I have the honour to acquaint you with the following facts.

The matter is an important one and concerns most of the people in the diving industry so it is causing a great deal of feeling in that community at present.

About half a dozen big pearl merchants have recently let it be known that they propose using motor launches for going out to the banks to buy pearls. Foremost among them are the Qusaibis, subjects of Ibn Saoud. This has resulted in a petition from a number of the leading men in the pearl trade requesting the Shaikh to forbid the use of launches for " tawash " work. The gist of the petition is as follows.

Bahrain depends entirely on the pearl trade which provides livelihoods for the rich and the poor. People who go out to the banks have equal chances of buying. If launches are used the owners will gain a great advantage over those who have none. they will be able to move from place to place with greater rapidity, on a calm day they will be able to go out and to buy up all the pearls as the sailing boats will not be able to move if there is no wind. Narhudas will sell to launch owners because the sail boat " Tawashin " wont be able to get to them. Launches will break up all the old rules of the trade. (It is recognised that the firstcomer has the right to board a pearling boat and that until he has finished his deal nobody else may board that boat.) Launches will make trade uneven giving all the chances to the rich men. (Presumably now a days a small man sometimes gets the chance of buying well merely because he is on the spot and no one

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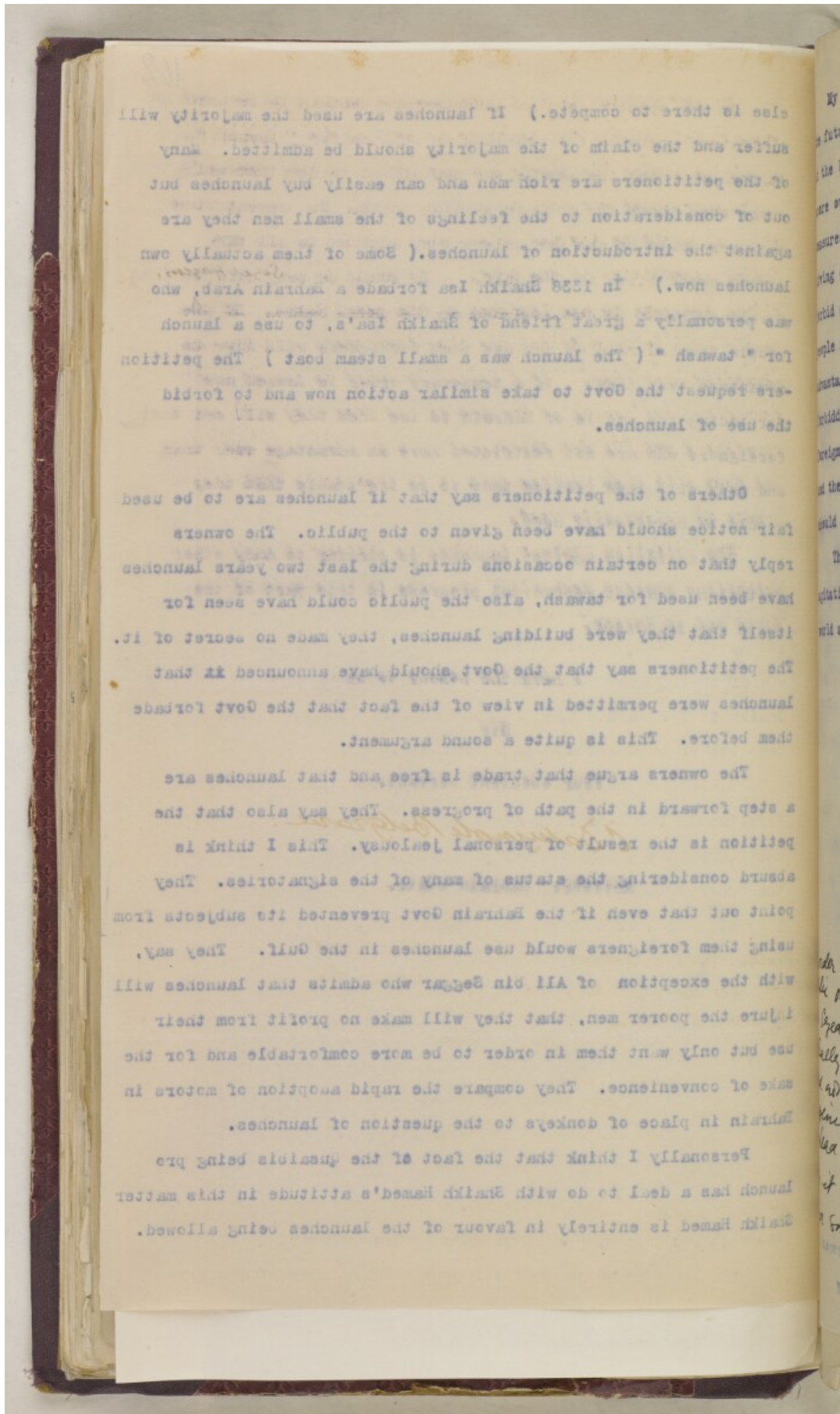


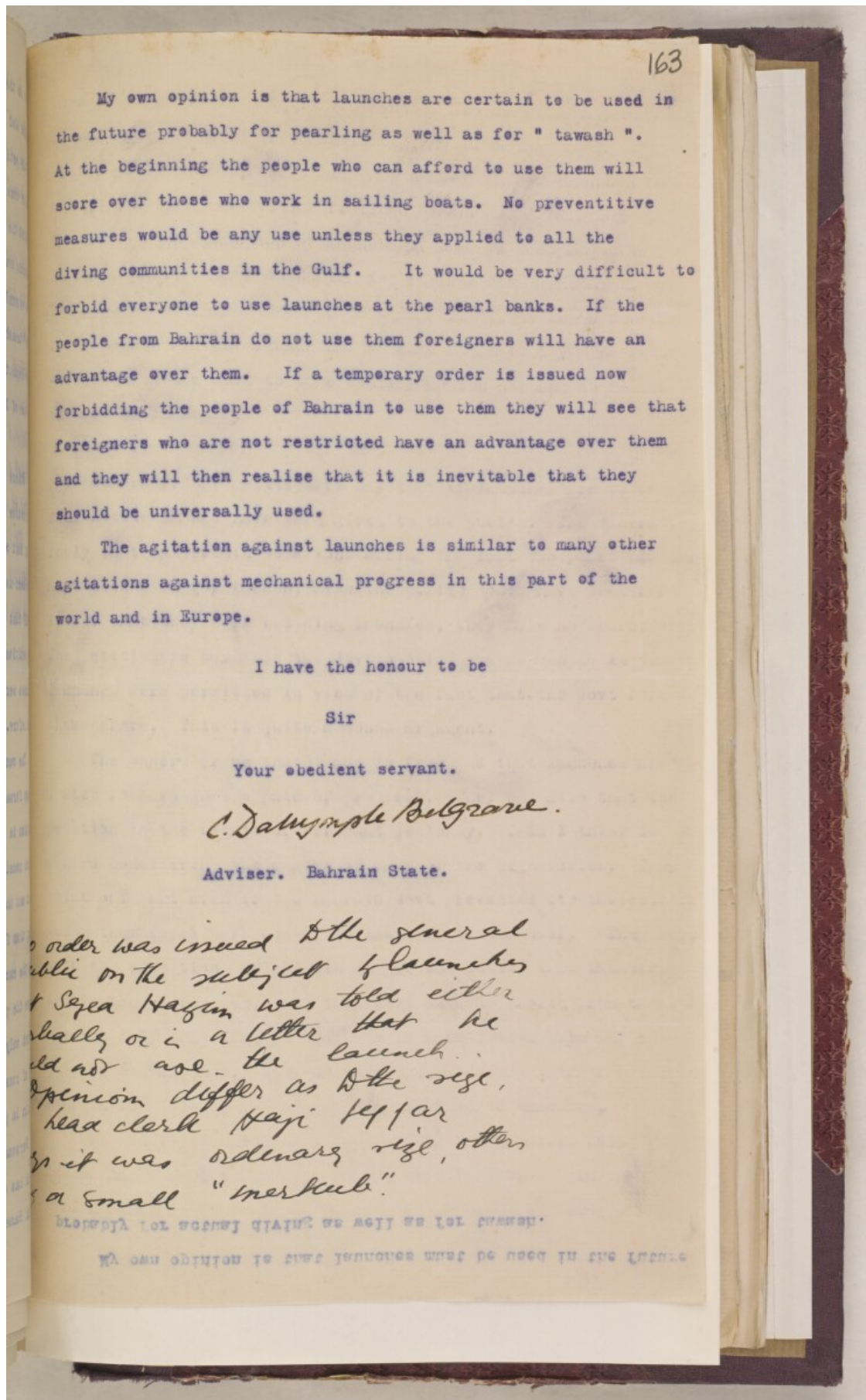
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else is there to compete.) If launches are used the majority will suffer and the claim of the majority should be admitted. Many of the petitioners are rich men and can easily buy launches but out of consideration to the feelings of the small men they are against the introduction of launches. (Some of them actually own launches now.) In 1338 Shaikh Isa forbade a Bahrain Arab, ^{Seggar Hassan,} who was personally a great friend of Shaikh Isa's, to use a launch for " tawash " (The launch was a small steam boat) The petitioners request the Govt to take similar action now and to forbid the use of launches.

Others of the petitioners say that if launches are to be used fair notice should have been given to the public. The owners reply that on certain occasions during the last two years launches have been used for tawash, also the public could have seen for itself that they were building launches, they made no secret of it. The petitioners say that the Govt should have announced ~~it~~ that launches were permitted in view of the fact that the Govt forbade them before. This is quite a sound argument.

The owners argue that trade is free and that launches are a step forward in the path of progress. They say also that the petition is the result of personal jealousy. This I think is absurd considering the status of many of the signatories. They point out that even if the Bahrain Govt prevented its subjects from using them foreigners would use launches in the Gulf. They say, with the exception of Ali bin Seggar who admits that launches will injure the poorer men, that they will make no profit from their use but only want them in order to be more comfortable and for the sake of convenience. They compare the rapid adoption of motors in Bahrain in place of donkeys to the question of launches.

Personally I think that the fact of the Qusaibis being pro launch has a deal to do with Shaikh Hamed's attitude in this matter. Shaikh Hamed is entirely in favour of the launches being allowed.





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My own opinion is that launches are certain to be used in the future probably for pearling as well as for "tawash". At the beginning the people who can afford to use them will score over those who work in sailing boats. No preventive measures would be any use unless they applied to all the diving communities in the Gulf. It would be very difficult to forbid everyone to use launches at the pearl banks. If the people from Bahrain do not use them foreigners will have an advantage over them. If a temporary order is issued now forbidding the people of Bahrain to use them they will see that foreigners who are not restricted have an advantage over them and they will then realise that it is inevitable that they should be universally used.

The agitation against launches is similar to many other agitations against mechanical progress in this part of the world and in Europe.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant.

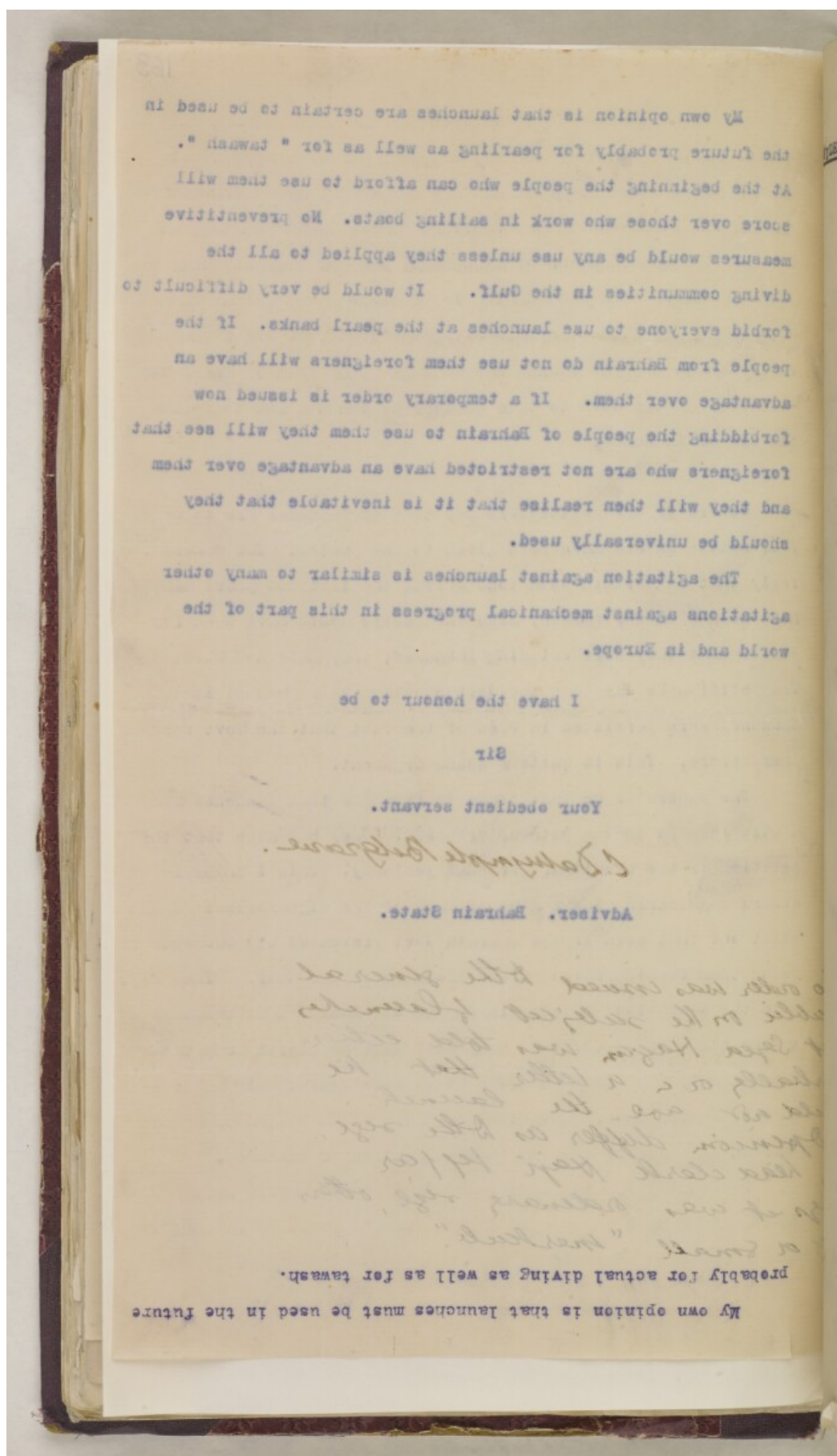
C. Dalrymple Belgrave.

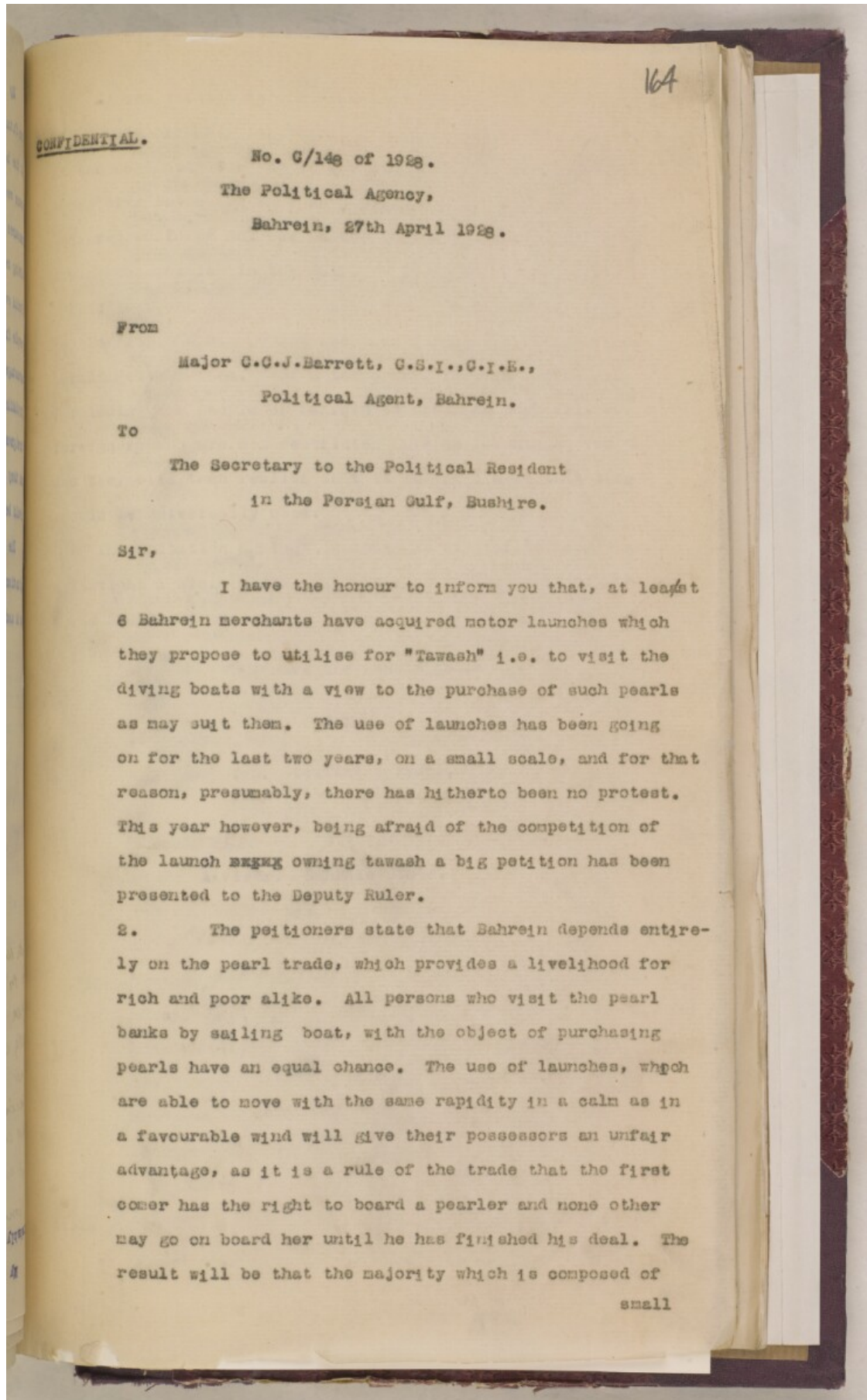
Adviser. Bahrain State.

order was issued the general public on the subject of launches. Sayed Nazim was told either orally or in a letter that he should not use the launch. Opinion differs as to the size, head clerk Haji Kassar says it was ordinary size, others say a small "merkub".

المركب هو قارب صغير يستخدم في الخليج.

هذا أمر مثير للاهتمام في هذه المراكب التي لا توجد في الخليج.





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. G/148 of 1928.

The Political Agency,
Bahrein, 27th April 1928.

From

Major C.G.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Agent, Bahrein.

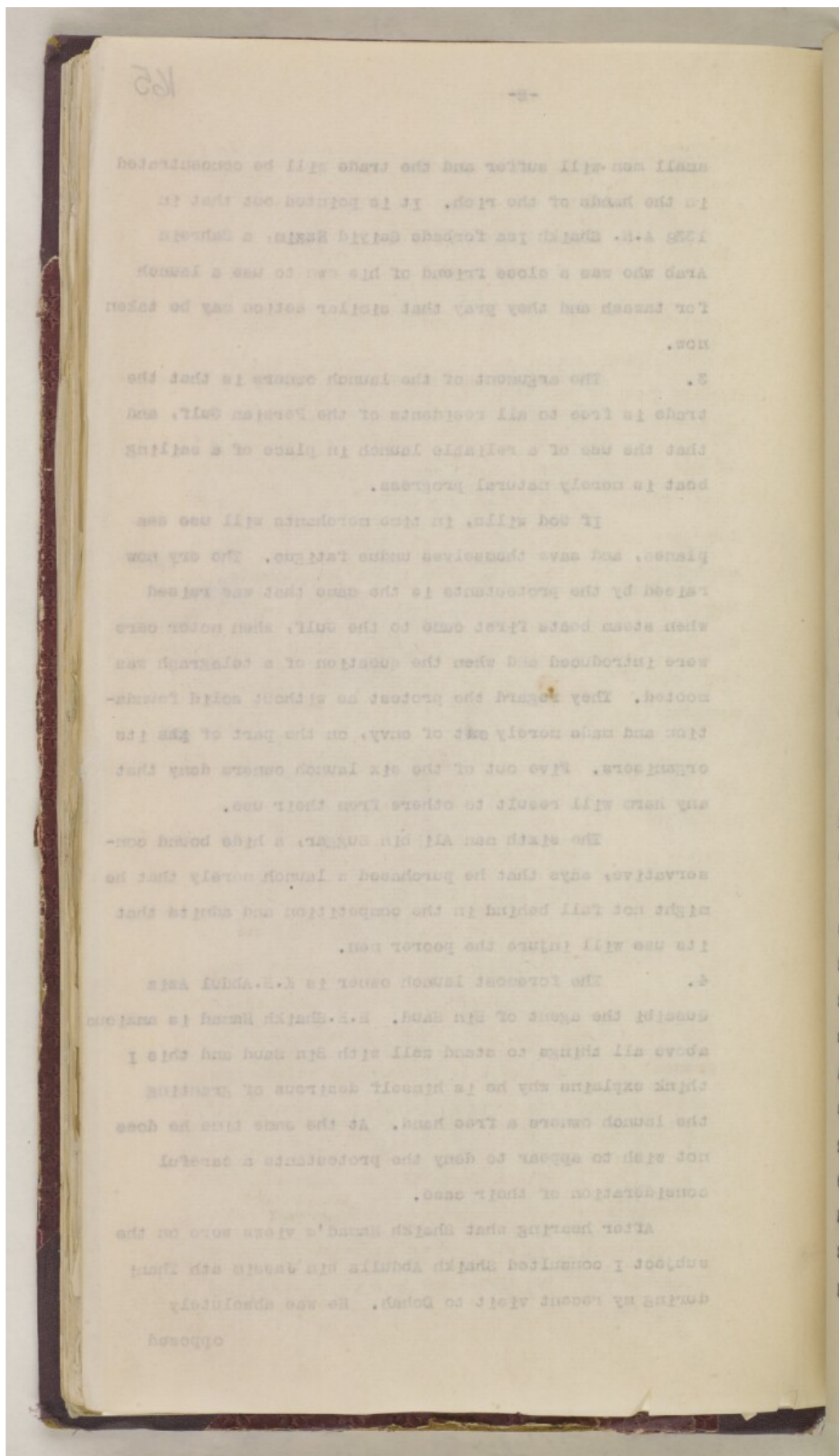
To

The Secretary to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, at least 6 Bahrein merchants have acquired motor launches which they propose to utilise for "Tawash" i.e. to visit the diving boats with a view to the purchase of such pearls as may suit them. The use of launches has been going on for the last two years, on a small scale, and for that reason, presumably, there has hitherto been no protest. This year however, being afraid of the competition of the launch ~~men~~ owning tawash a big petition has been presented to the Deputy Ruler.

2. The petitioners state that Bahrein depends entirely on the pearl trade, which provides a livelihood for rich and poor alike. All persons who visit the pearl banks by sailing boat, with the object of purchasing pearls have an equal chance. The use of launches, which are able to move with the same rapidity in a calm as in a favourable wind will give their possessors an unfair advantage, as it is a rule of the trade that the first comer has the right to board a pearler and none other may go on board her until he has finished his deal. The result will be that the majority which is composed of
small





-2-

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small men will suffer and the trade will be concentrated in the hands of the rich. It is pointed out that in 1338 A.H. Shaikh Isa forbade Saiyid Hazim, a Bahrein Arab who was a close friend of his own to use a launch for tawash and they pray that similar action may be taken now.

3. The argument of the launch owners is that the trade is free to all residents of the Persian Gulf, and that the use of a reliable launch in place of a sailing boat is merely natural progress.

If God wills, in time merchants will use sea planes, and save themselves undue fatigue. The cry now raised by the protestants is the same that was raised when steam boats first came to the Gulf, when motor cars were introduced and when the question of a telegraph was mooted. They regard the protest as without solid foundation and made merely out of envy, on the part of ~~the~~ its organisers. Five out of the six launch owners deny that any harm will result to others from their use.

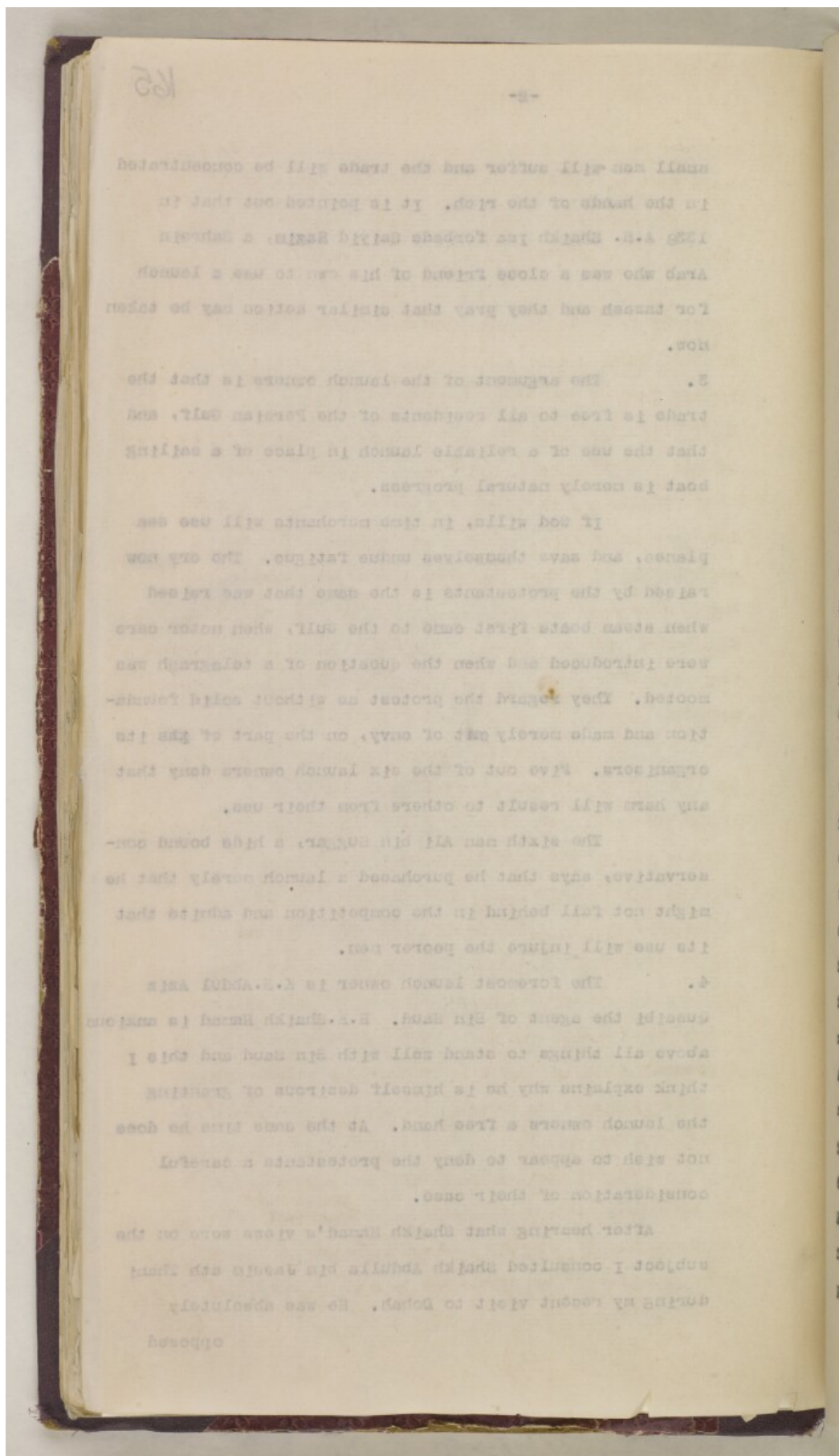
The sixth man Ali bin Suggar, a hide bound conservative, says that he purchased a launch merely that he might not fall behind in the competition and admits that its use will injure the poorer men.

4. The foremost launch owner is K.B.Abdul Aziz Qusaibi the agent of Bin Saud. H.B.Shaikh Hamad is anxious above all things to stand well with Bin Saud and this I think explains why he is himself desirous of granting the launch owners a free hand. At the same time he does not wish to appear to deny the protestants a careful consideration of their case.

After hearing what Shaikh Hamad's views were on the subject I consulted Shaikh Abdulla bin Jassim ath Thani during my recent visit to Dohah. He was absolutely
opposed



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[165v] (353/434)





-3-

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opposed to the use of launches in the pearl trade and said that the British Government should forbid it. I am informed however by Shaikh Hamad and others that Shaikh Abdulla is unable to enforce his views even within his own town. His nephew Abdulla bin Ahmed possesses a launch which he is already using for "tawashing". Shaikh Abdulla's brother Thani also, is likely to carry out his own wishes in the face of the so called ruler's orders.

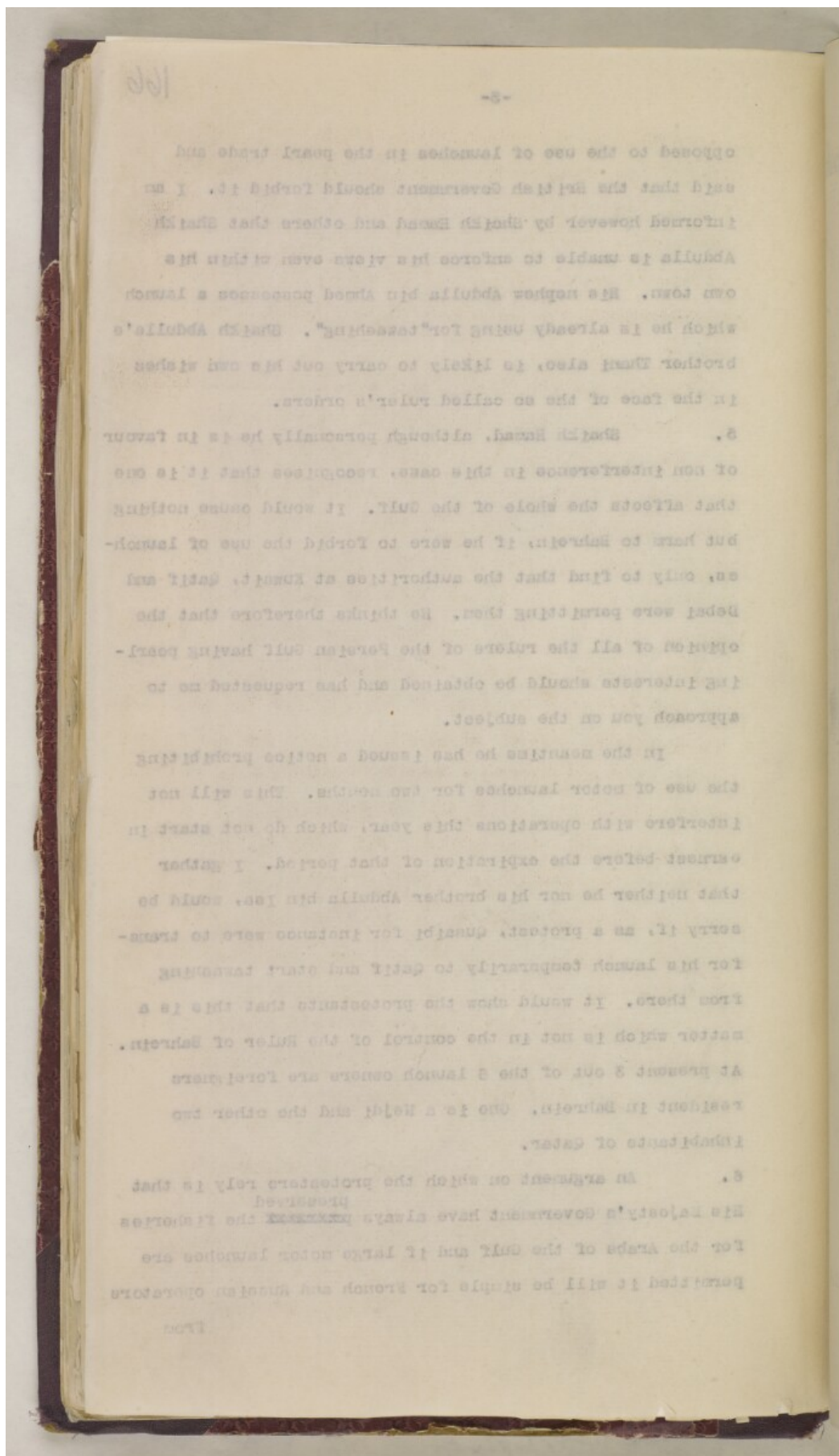
5. Shaikh Hamad, although personally he is in favour of non interference in this case, recognises that it is one that affects the whole of the Gulf. It would cause nothing but harm to Bahrein, if he were to forbid the use of launches, only to find that the authorities at Kuwait, Qatif and Debai were permitting them. He thinks therefore that the opinion of all the rulers of the Persian Gulf having pearling interests should be obtained and has requested me to approach you on the subject.

In the meantime he has issued a notice prohibiting the use of motor launches for two months. This will not interfere with operations this year, which do not start in earnest before the expiration of that period. I gather that neither he nor his brother Abdulla bin Isa, would be sorry if, as a protest, Qusaibi for instance were to transfer his launch temporarily to Qatif and start tawashing from there. It would show the protestants that this is a matter which is not in the control of the Ruler of Bahrein. At present 3 out of the 6 launch owners are foreigners resident in Bahrein. One is a Hejdi and the other two inhabitants of Qatar.

6. An argument on which the protesters rely is that His Majesty's Government have always ^{preserved} ~~protected~~ the fisheries for the Arabs of the Gulf and if large motor launches are permitted it will be simple for French and Russian operators
from



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[166v] (355/434)





-4-

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from Bombay or the Persian Coast, having large capital behind them, to oust the small Arab merchant from the trade. They profess to be unafraid of the present Arab owners.

This argument, I consider, has been put forward merely to impress me, but there is a certain amount of truth in it. As mechanical transportation increases in efficiency and comfort it will be more than ever difficult to ~~preserve~~ ~~maintain~~ the British attitude towards the Gulf pearl trade.

The immediate problem, however, is the use of launches by Arabs of the Persian Gulf. I recommend that if the Political Resident agrees the opinion of the Shaikhs of the Trucial Coast be obtained on this subject. Neither Kuwait nor Persia which are distant from the scene of operations appear to me to be much interested. I presume, it will be a simple matter to obtain Trucial Coast views but it will be more difficult to obtain an opinion from Bin Saud, who is interested as Ruler of Qatif. I think the best method would be, if the Political Resident agrees, for me to write a friendly letter to the Amir of Qatif asking for his ideas on the subject. I am doubtful what view, Bin Saud, to whom the Amir would have to refer, would take of this action, which is at present a matter of purely Gulf interest and as such a fit object for an exchange of ideas between local officers.

I note that here again is a matter which would be simplified by the grant of Consular powers for Qatif and Hasa, to the Political Agent, Bahrain.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

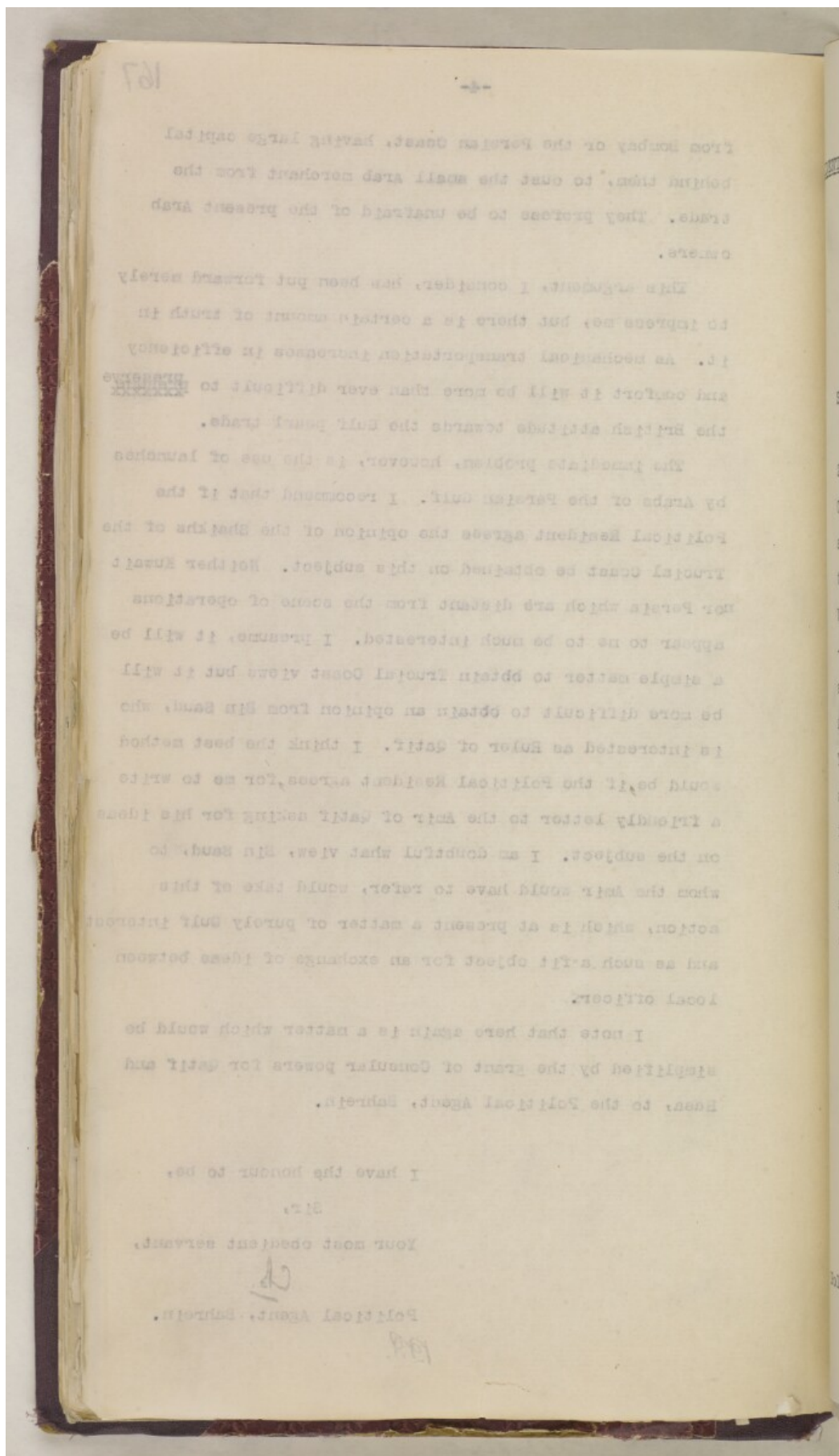
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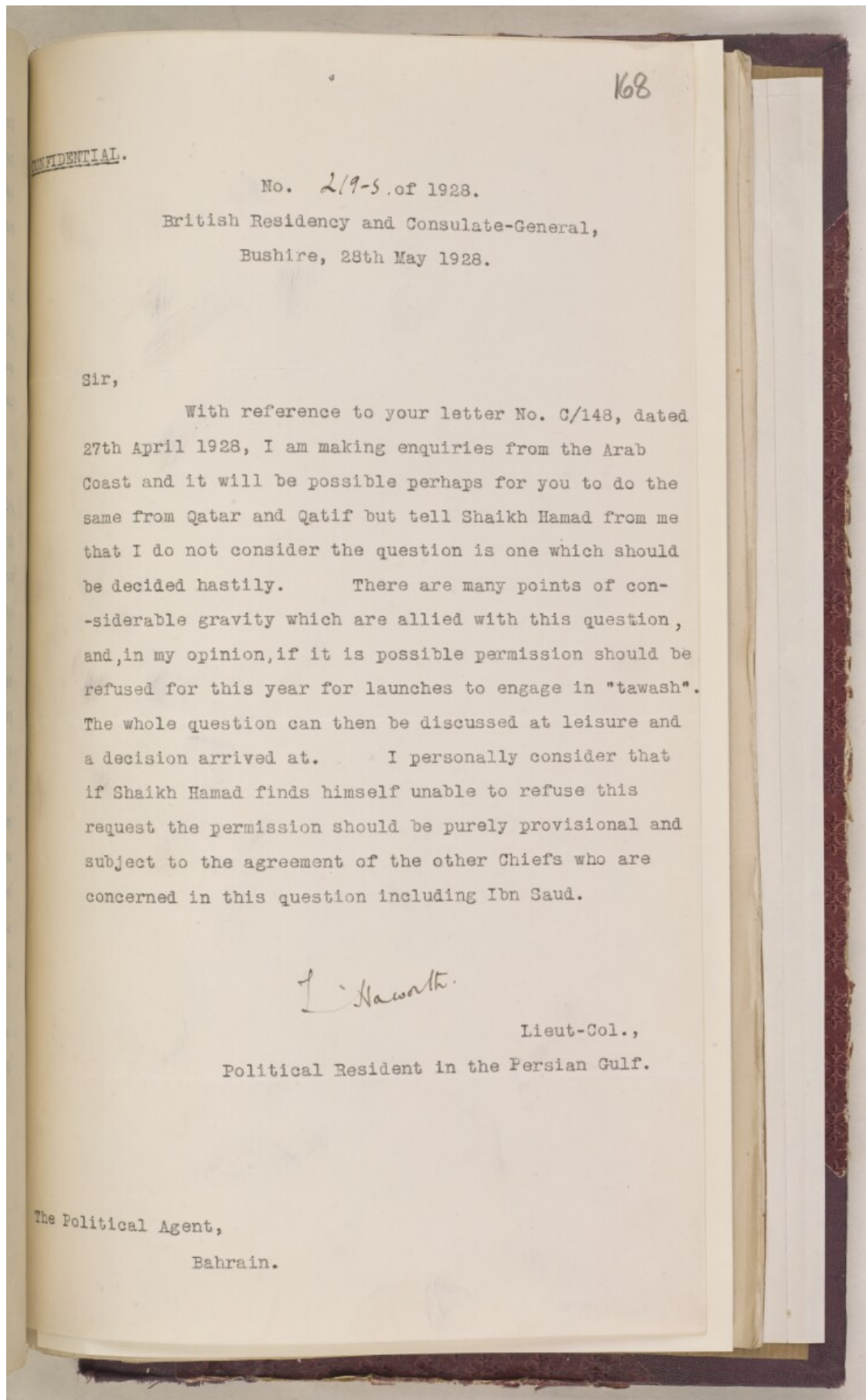
Political Agent, Bahrain.

199.



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[167v] (357/434)





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2/9-5 of 1928.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 28th May 1928.

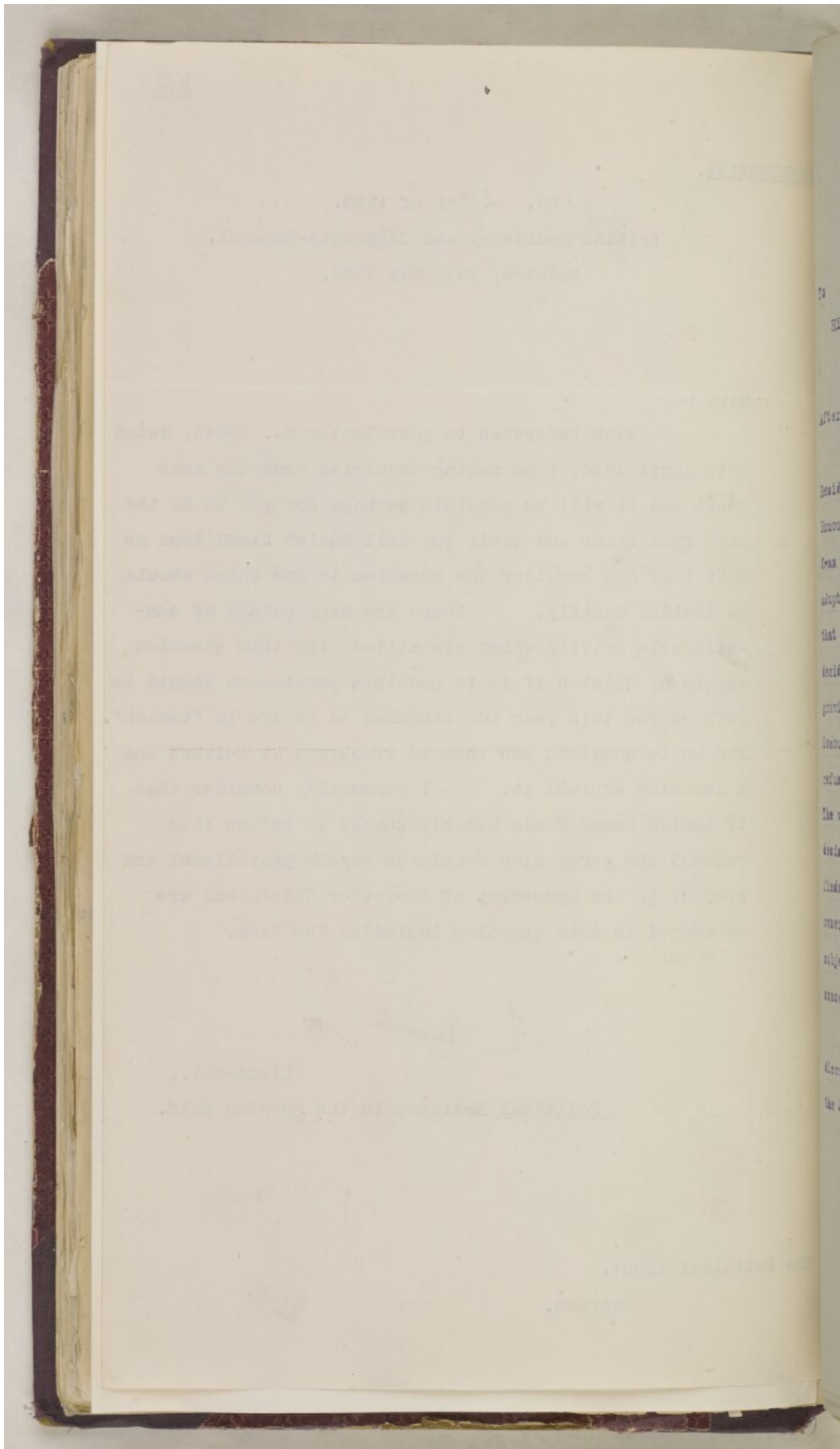
Sir,

With reference to your letter No. C/148, dated 27th April 1928, I am making enquiries from the Arab Coast and it will be possible perhaps for you to do the same from Qatar and Qatif but tell Shaikh Hamad from me that I do not consider the question is one which should be decided hastily. There are many points of considerable gravity which are allied with this question, and, in my opinion, if it is possible permission should be refused for this year for launches to engage in "tawash". The whole question can then be discussed at leisure and a decision arrived at. I personally consider that if Shaikh Hamad finds himself unable to refuse this request the permission should be purely provisional and subject to the agreement of the other Chiefs who are concerned in this question including Ibn Saud.

L. Haworth.

Lieut-Col.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

The Political Agent,
Bahrain.





169

No. 404/V.C. of 1928
Political Agency Bahrain
Dated the 1st June 1928

To

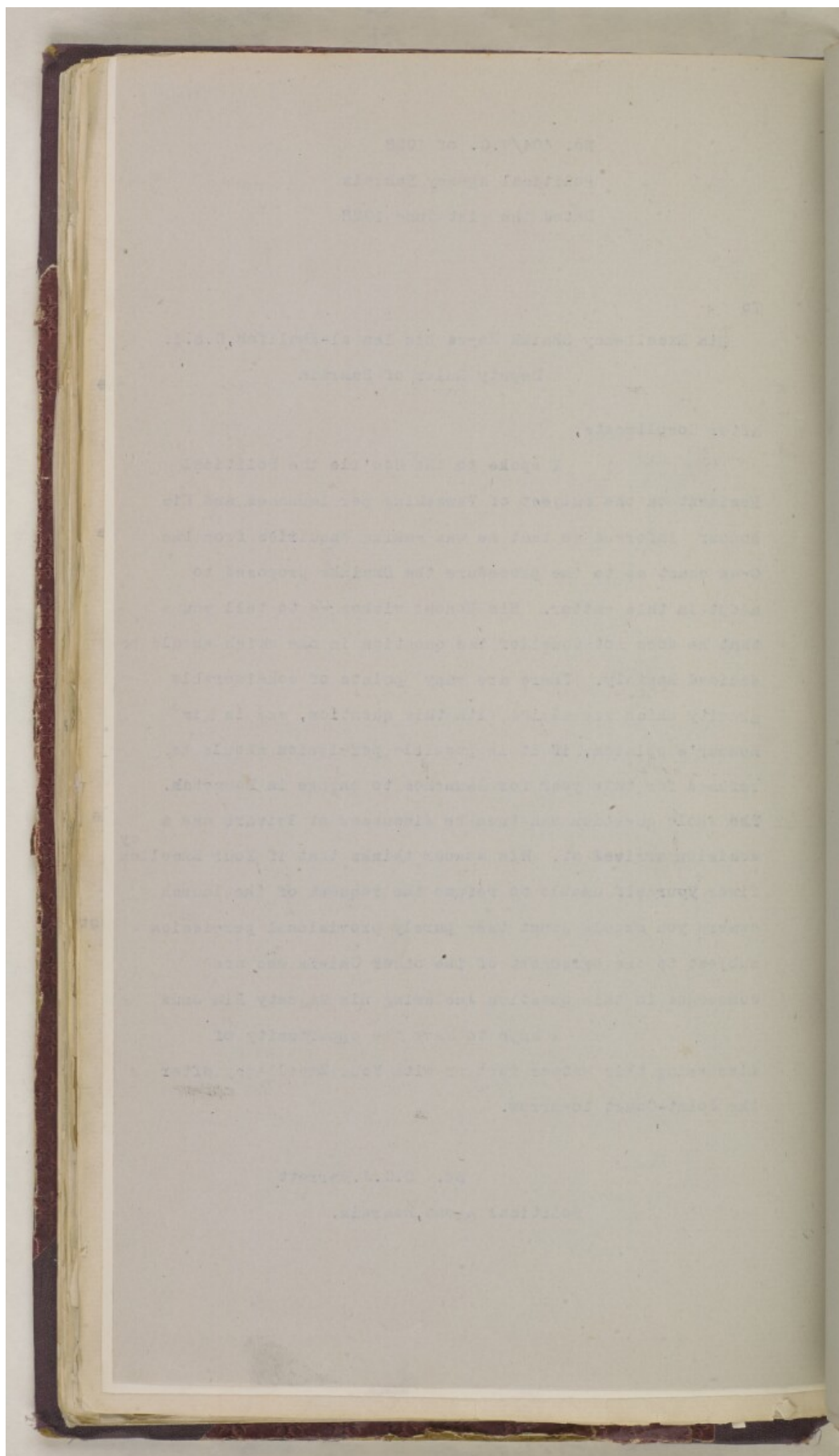
His Excellency Shaikh Hawad bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.S.I.
Deputy Ruler of Bahrain

After Compliments,

I spoke to the Hon'ble the Political Resident on the subject of Tawashing per launches and His Honour informed me that he was making enquiries from the Oman coast as to the procedure the Shaikhs proposed to adopt in this matter. His Honour wishes me to tell you that he does not consider the question is one which should be decided hastily. There are many points of considerable gravity which are allied with this question, and in His Honour's opinion, if it is possible, permission should be refused for this year for launches to engage in Tawashah. The whole question can then be discussed at leisure and a decision arrived at. His Honour thinks that if Your Excellency finds yourself unable to refuse the request of the launch owners you should grant them purely provisional permission subject to the agreement of the other Chiefs who are concerned in this question including His Majesty Bin Saud.

I hope to have the opportunity of discussing this matter further with Your Excellency after the Joint-Court to-morrow.

Sd. C.C.J. Barrett
Political Agent, Bahrain.





170
No. 410/V.O. of 1928
Political Agency, Bahrain
Dated the 3rd June 1928

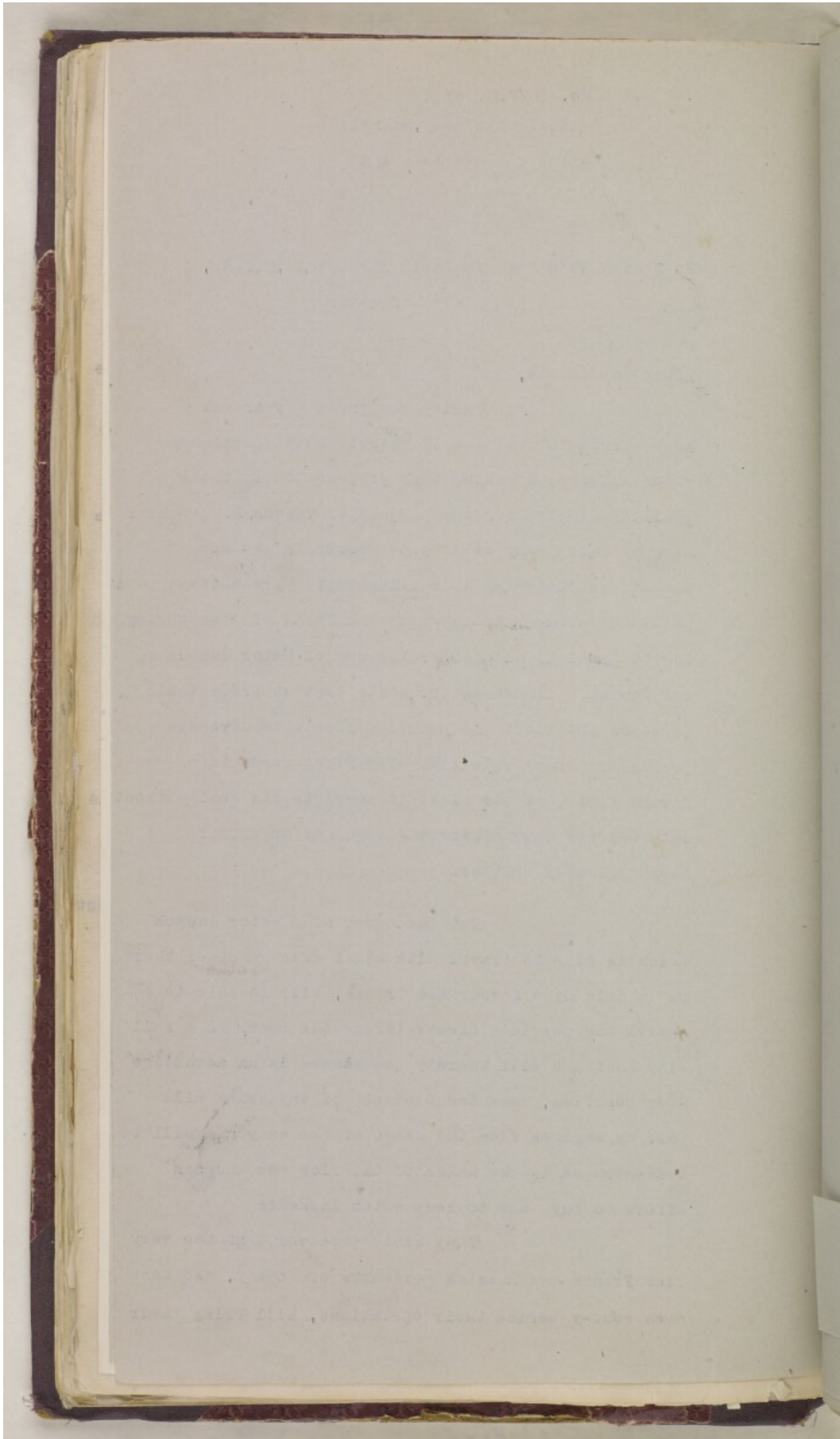
To Shaikh Abdullah bin Jasir ath-Thani, C.I.E.,
Ruler of Qatar

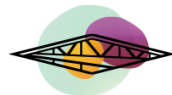
After Com-ments,

During the present year six Arab merchants residing in Bahrain have purchased motor launches in which they propose to visit the pearling fleets for the purpose of Tawashah. On hearing of this many other Arab merchants who are accustomed to Tawash in sailing boats presented a petition to His Excellency Shaikh 'Awad bin Isa asking him to prohibit altogether the use of Motor launches for Tawash. These latter state that at present all persons who visit the pearling fleets to purchase pearls are on an equality. The first comes to a diving boat has the right to complete his deal without interference from others and none has an unfair advantage over another.

But the owner of a motor launch which is able to travel with equal ease whether there be a calm or a favourable breeze, will be able to reach the pearling fleets before the owner of a sailing boat and will thereby be placed in an advantageous position, and the business of tawashing will pass by degrees from the hands of the many and will be concentrated in the hands of the rich men who can afford to buy and to keep motor launches.

They state moreover that the very rich French and Russian merchants of Bombay, who have much money behind their operations, will bring their





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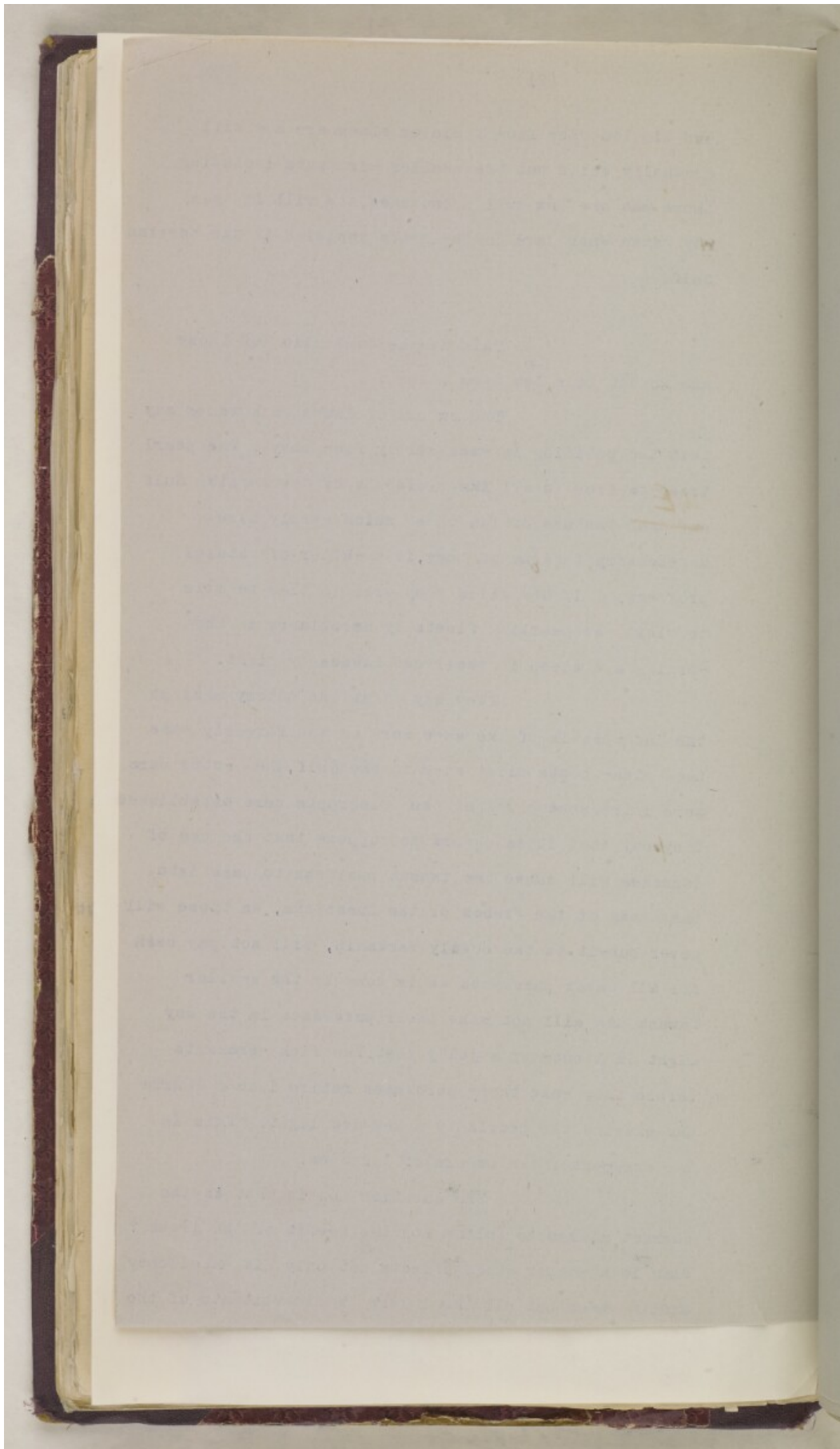
own big launches from India or elsewhere and will gradually drive out the smaller merchants including those who are now owning launches, and will in this way cause much harm to the Arabs residing in the Persian Gulf.

This is the contention of those
the
who do not like launches.

The owners of launches however say that the petition is made merely from envy. The pearl trade is free to all the residents of the Persian Gulf and that the use of launches which merely save unnecessary fatigue of body, is a matter of natural progress. If God wills they will in time be able to visit the pearling fleets by aeroplanes in the morning and sleep in their own houses by night.

They say that the outcry against the launches is of the same sort as was formerly made when steam boats first came to the Gulf, when motor cars were introduced and when the telegraphs were established. They say that it is absurd to suppose that the use of launches will cause the tawash business to pass into the hands of the French or the Russians, as these will never submit to the bodily hardship, will not pay cash for all their purchases as is done by the smaller Tawash and will not make their purchases in the day light in a boom or a jolly boat. The rich merchants before they make their purchases retire into a Ghurfa and examine the pearls by a subdued light. This is the argument of the owners of launches.

The question now is what is the correct course to follow for the benefit of the Arabs? This is a matter which affects not only His Excellency Shaikh Nawad but all the rulers and inhabitants of the shore. As boats go out for pearl diving and tawashing from ports under Your Excellency's control I should be very much obliged if Your Excellency would favour me





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with your opinion in this matter, so that all may work
~~xxx~~ together for the good of the inhabitants of the
pearling area.

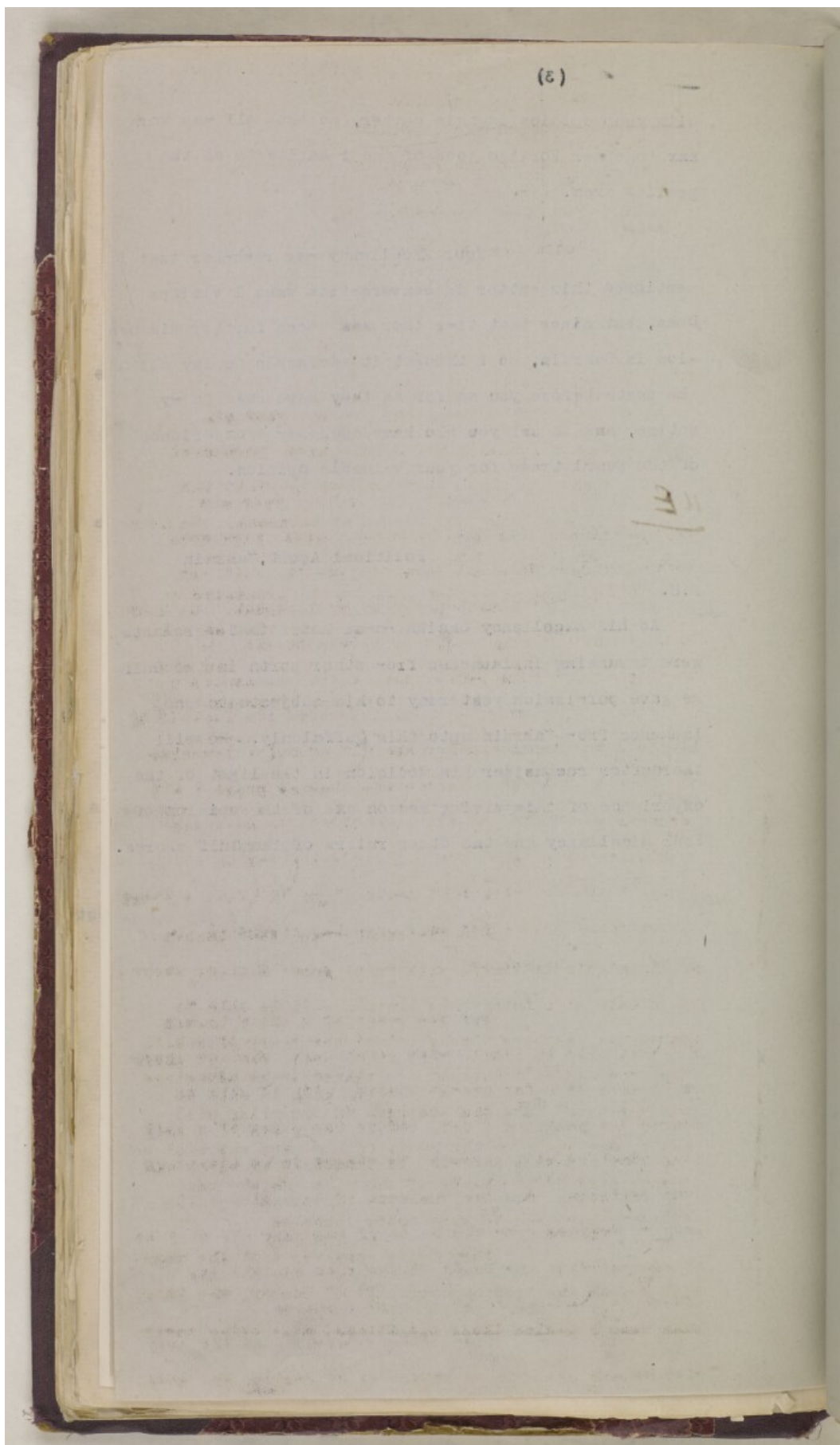
Your Excellency may remember that I
mentioned this matter in conversation when I visited
Doha, but since that time there has been further discus-
sion in Bahrain, so I thought it advisable to lay all the
facts before you so far as they have come to my
notice, and to ask you who have such large experience
of the pearl trade for your valuable opinion.

UE

Political Agent, Bahrain

P.S.

As His Excellency Shaikh Hawad heard that merchants
were tawashing in launches from other ports in the Gulf
he gave permission yesterday to his subjects to use
launches from Bahrain upto this Quffal only. He will
thereafter reconsider his decision in the light of the
experience of this diving season and of the opinion of
Your Excellency and the other rulers of the Gulf shores.





173

No. 410/V.O. of 1923
Political Agency, Bahrain
Dated the 3rd June 1923

To

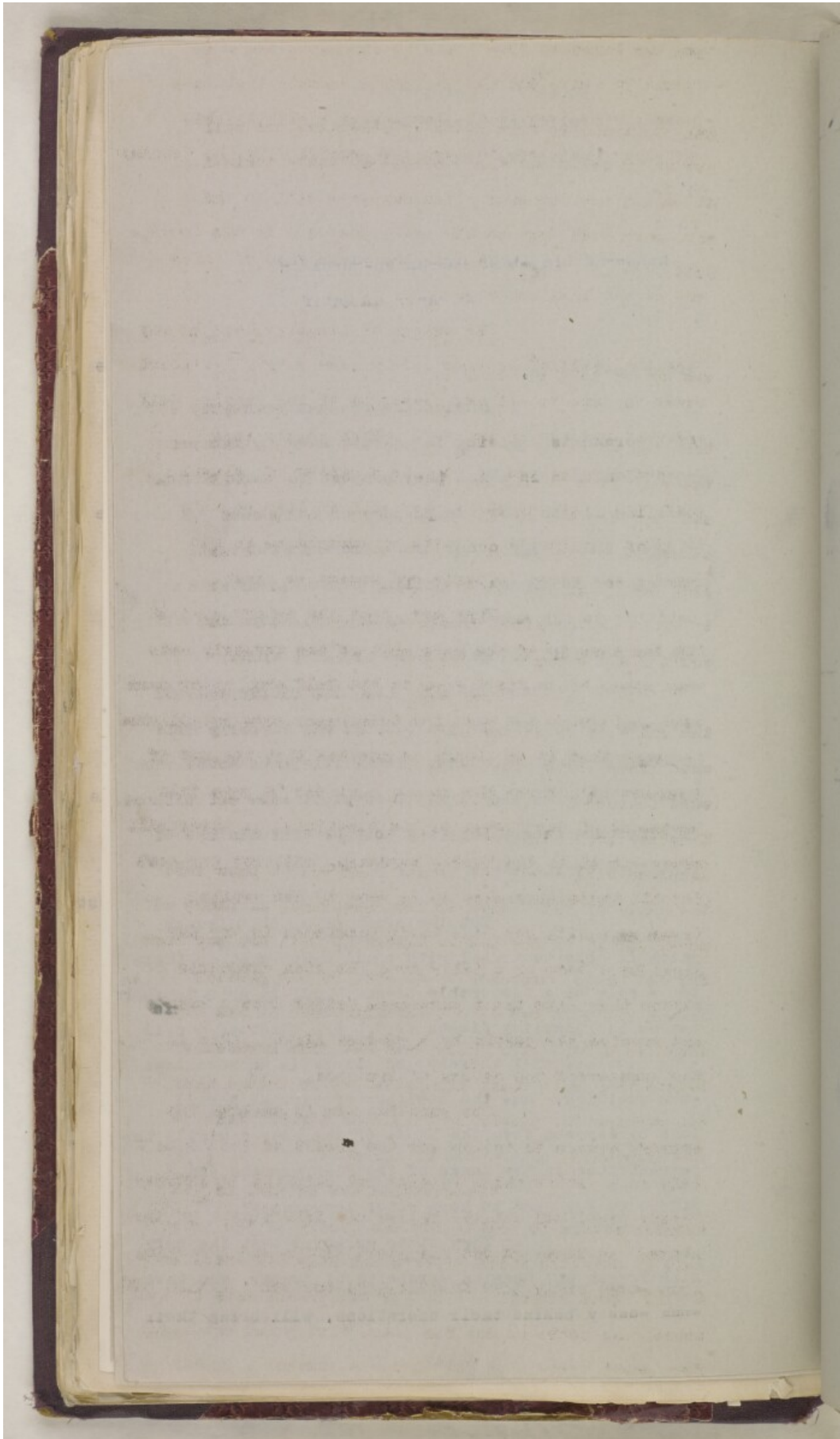
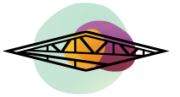
Muhammad bin Abdur Rahman as-Suwailim
Amir of Qatif

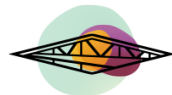
After Consideration,

During the present year six Arab merchants residing in Bahrain have purchased motor launches in which they propose to visit the pearling fleets for the purpose of Tawashak. On hearing of this many other Arab merchants who are accustomed to Tawashak in sailing boats presented a petition to His Excellency Shaikh Ahmad bin Isa asking him to prohibit altogether the use of Motor launches for Tawashak. These latter state that at present all persons who visit the pearling fleets to purchase pearls are on an equality. The first comes to a diving boat has the right to complete his deal without interference from others and none has an unfair advantage over another.

But the owner of a motor launch which is able to travel with equal ease whether there be a calm or a favourable breeze, will be able to search the pearling fleets before the owner of a sailing boat and will thereby be placed in an advantageous position, and the business of tawashing will pass by degrees from the hands of the many and will be concentrated in the hands of the rich men who can afford to buy and to keep motor launches.

They state moreover that the very rich French and Russian merchants of Bombay, who have much money behind their operations, will bring their





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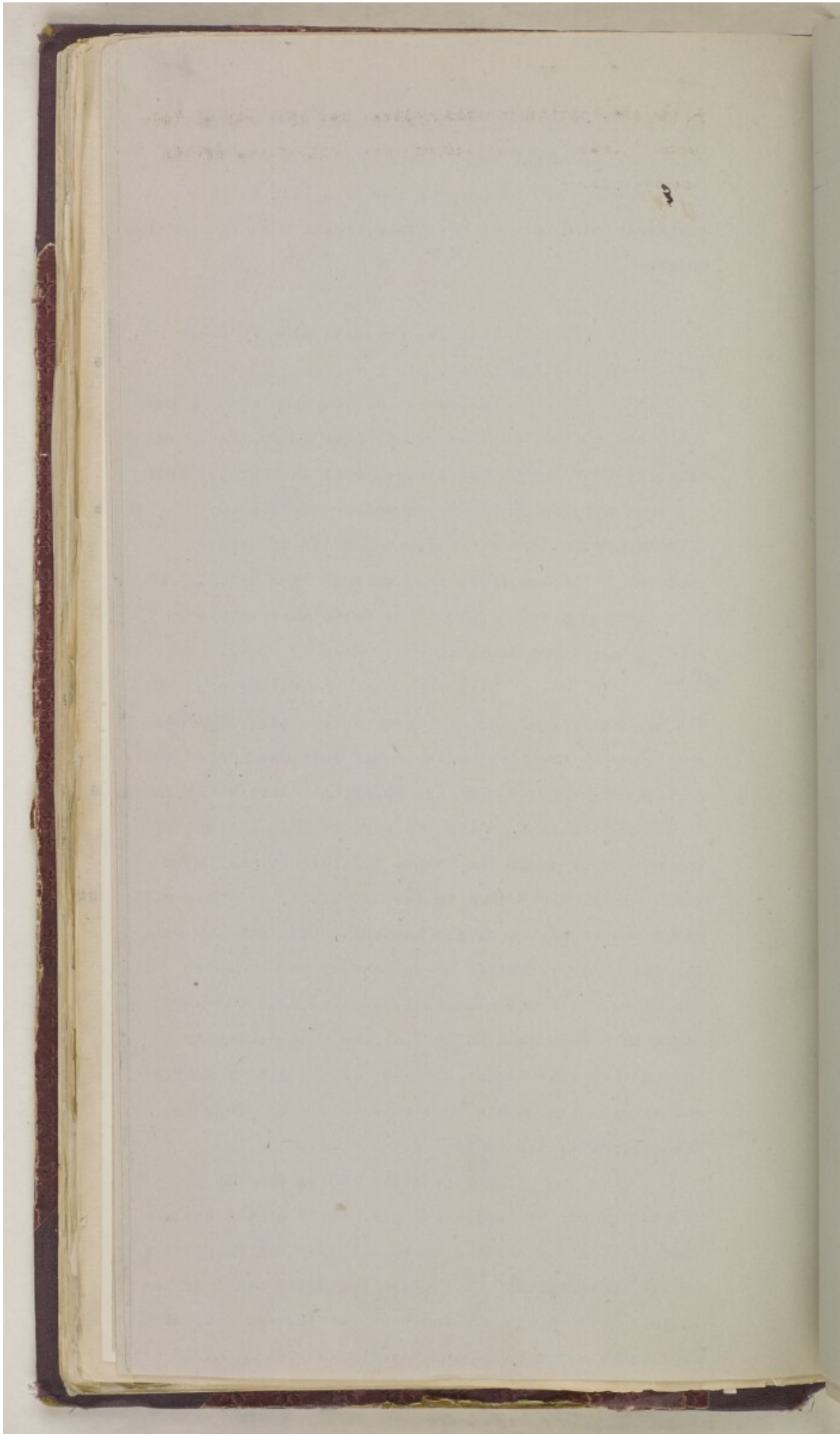
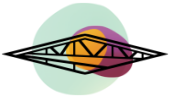
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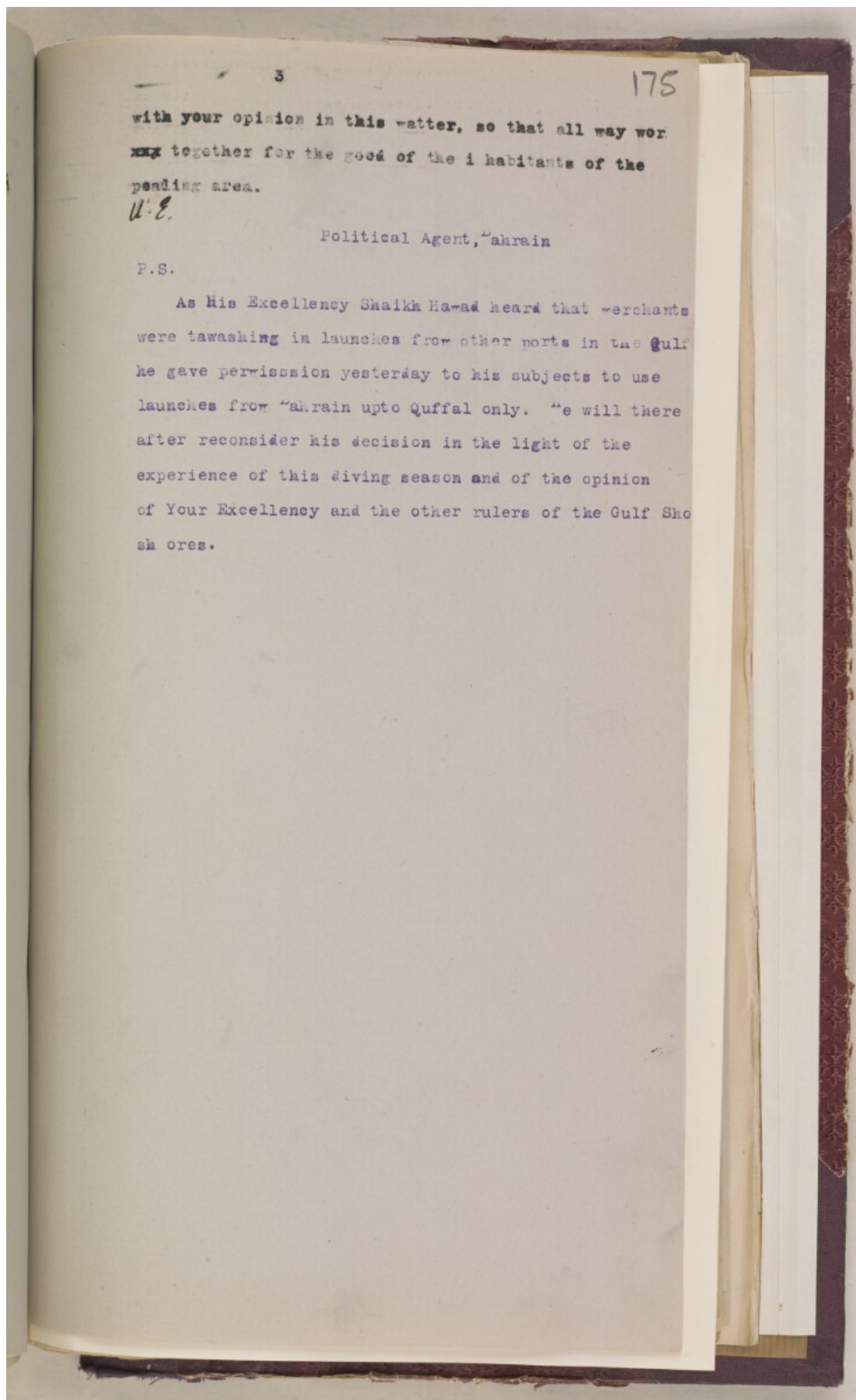
This is the contention of those
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who do not like launches.

The owners of launches however say that the petition is made merely from envy. The pearl trade is free to all residents of the Persian Gulf and that the use of launches which merely save unnecessary fatigue of body, is a matter of natural progress. If God wills they will in time be able to visit the pearling fleets by aeroplanes in the morning and sleep in their own houses by night.

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The question now is what is the correct course to follow for the benefit of the Arabs? This is a matter which affects not only His Excellency Shaikh Nawad but all the rulers and inhabitants of the shore. As boats go out for pearl diving and tawashing from ports under Your Excellency's control I should be





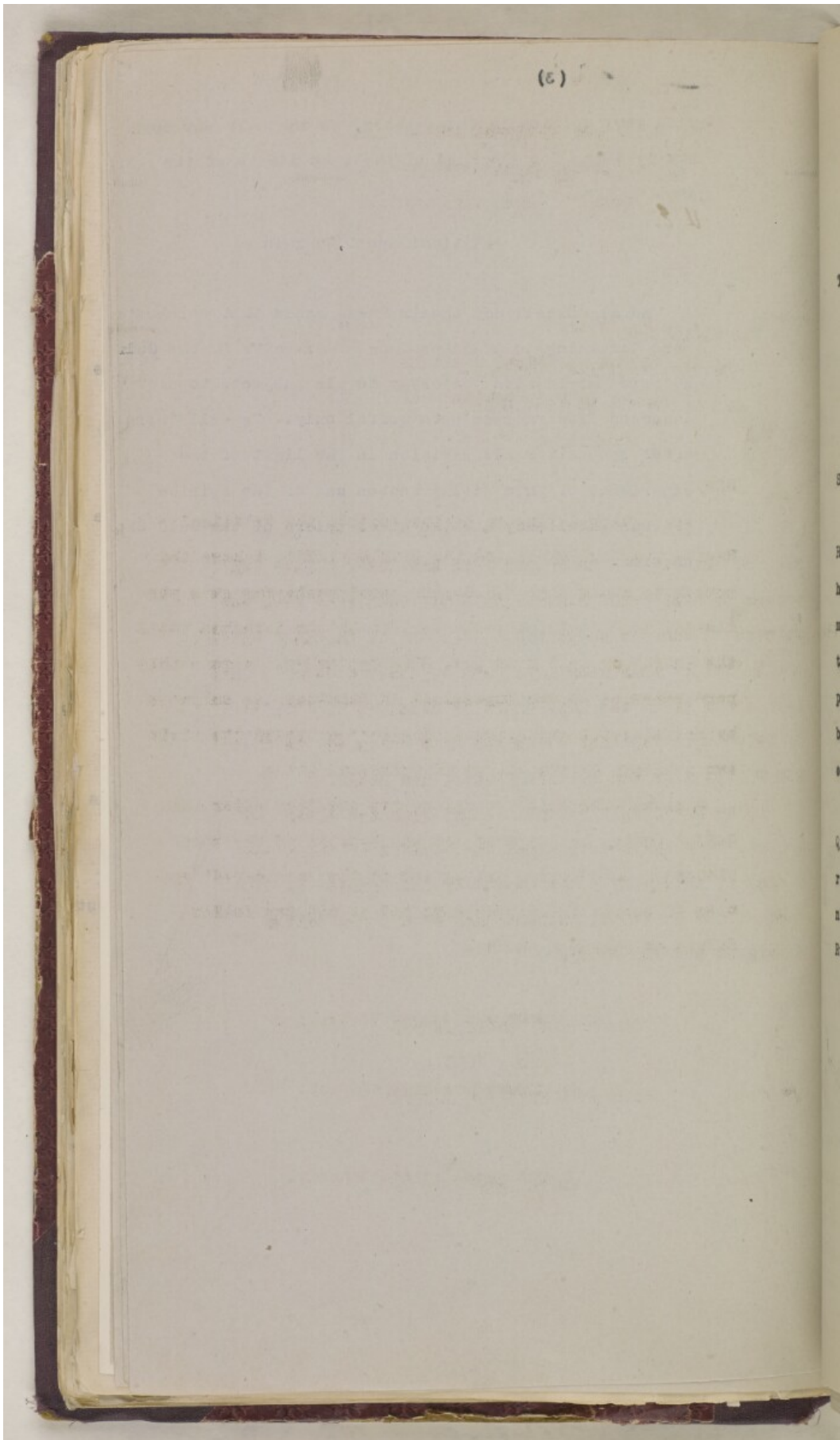
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with your opinion in this matter, so that all way wor
~~xxx~~ together for the good of the inhabitants of the
pearling area.

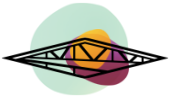
U.E.

Political Agent, Bahrain

P.S.

As His Excellency Shaikh Hawad heard that merchants
were tawashing in launches from other ports in the Gulf
he gave permission yesterday to his subjects to use
launches from Bahrain upto Quffal only. He will there
after reconsider his decision in the light of the
experience of this diving season and of the opinion
of Your Excellency and the other rulers of the Gulf Sho
ah ores.





176

No.C/179 of 1928.
The Political Agency,
Bahrein, 3rd June 1928.

To
The Secretary
to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Sir,

With reference to the Hon'ble the Political Resident's No.219-S dated the 28th May 1928, I have the honour to state that H.E.Sheikh Hamad yesterday gave permission to Bahrein subjects to "Tawash" in launches until the Quffal of this year i.e. 20th September. He gave this permission as it was impossible to handicap his subjects by refusing a facility which had been extended to their own subjects by the Rulers of Qatif and Qatar.

Sheikh Hamad will reconsider the question after the Quffal, after he has obtained the benefit of the experience of this year's diving and of the considered opinion of the Political Resident and of his own fellow Rulers on the Gulf shores.

I have the honour to be,

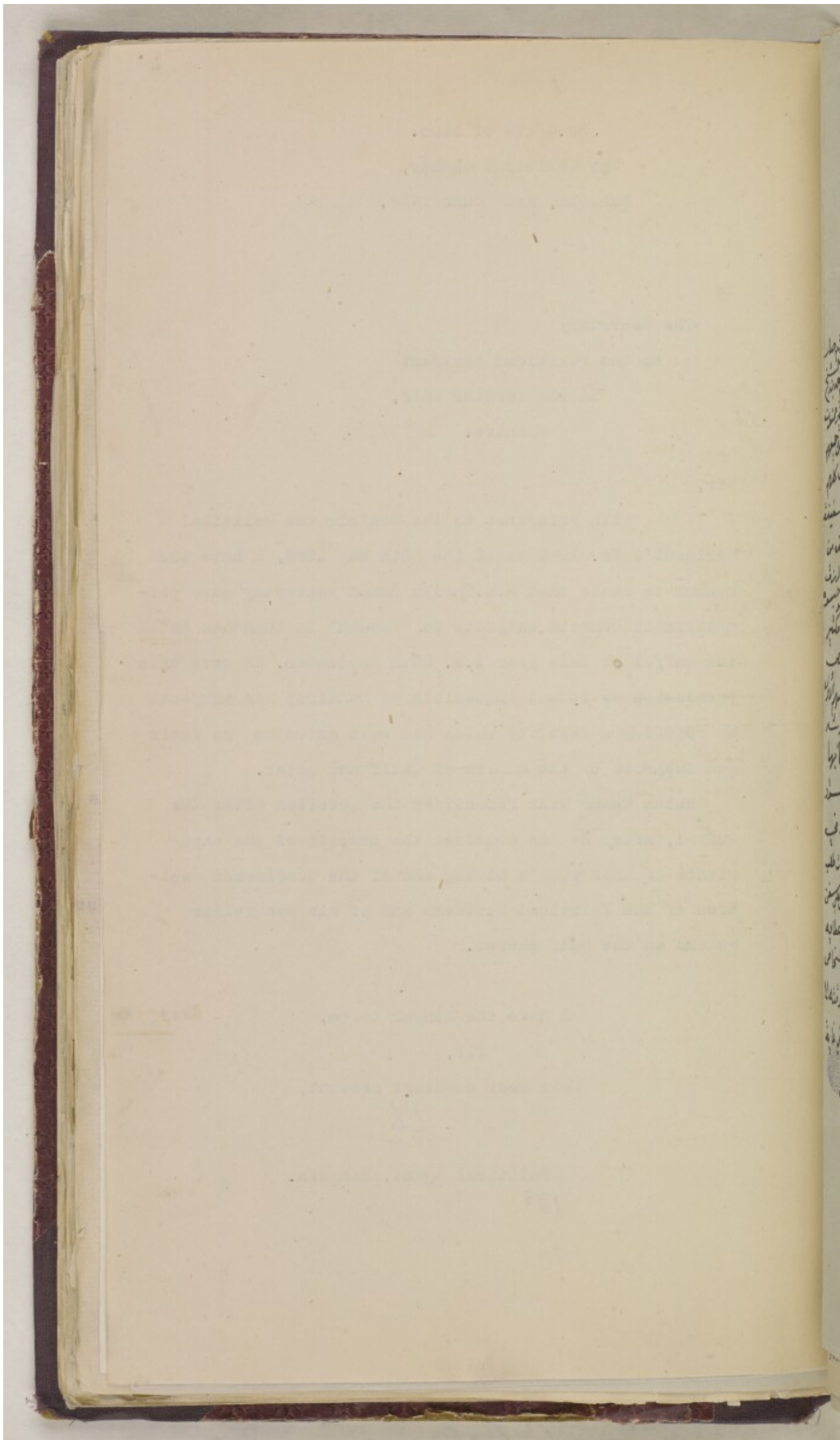
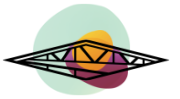
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Ch.

Political Agent, Bahrein.

raa.

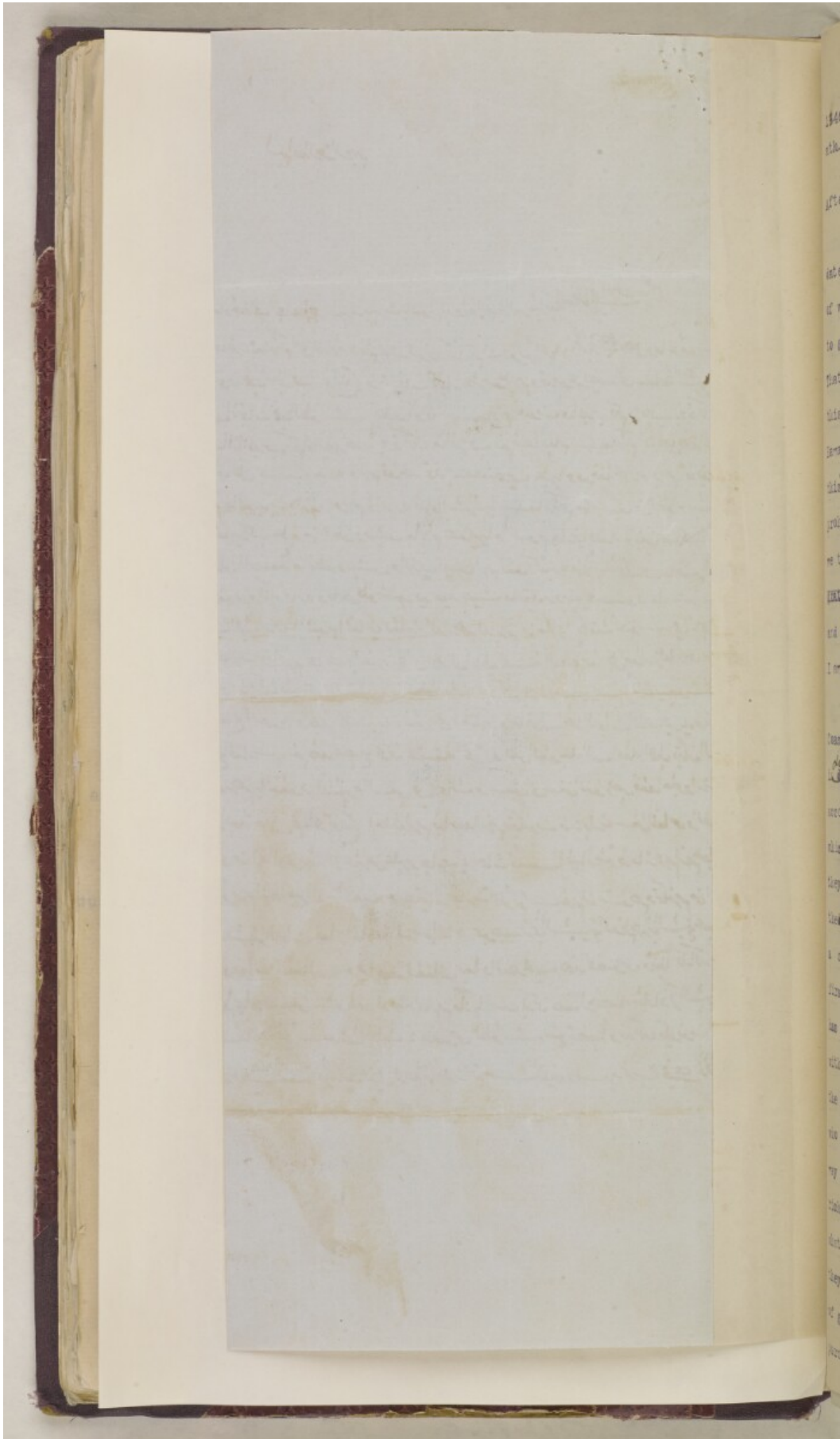
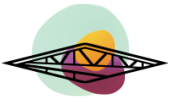


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من عبد الله بن قاسم الثاني حاكم قطر

[illegible]

Done pl
BR





178
Translation of letter dated the 22nd Dhul Hijjah
1346- 11-6-28 from His Excellency Shaikh Abdullah bin Qasir
ath-Thani to H.B.M.'s Political Agent, Bahrain

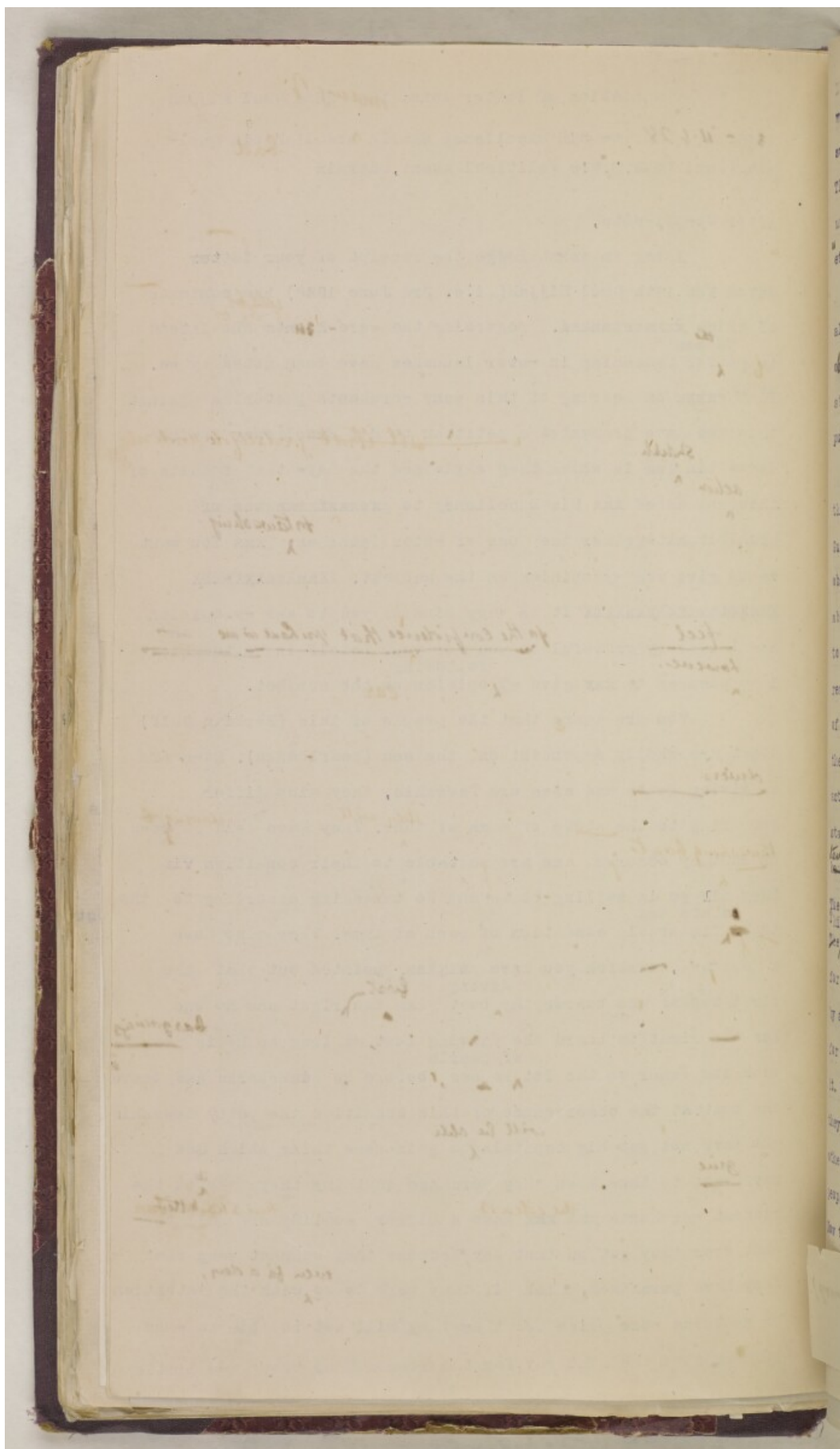
After Compliments,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter
dated the 14th Dhul Hijjah (i.e. 3rd June 1928) the contents
of which ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ regarding the were-hunts who intend
to go for tawashing in motor launches have been noted by me.
That ~~XXXX~~ on hearing of this many merchants protested against
this and have presented a petition to His Excellency Shaikh
Hawad bin Tsa in which they explained the harm that results of
this and asked ~~the~~ His Excellency to ~~prohibit altogether the use of motor launches~~
prohibit altogether the use of motor launches. That you want
me to give you my opinion on the subject. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It is very kind of you to ask my opinion
and I am very grateful to you for your belief in me. ~~to which~~
I am pleased to ~~xxx~~ give my opinion on the subject.

You are aware that the people of this (Persian Gulf)
Coast are wholly dependant on the sea (pearlbanks). Some are
diving boats and some are Tawashis, they also differ
according to the state of each of them. They have old customs
which they observe and are suitable to their condition viz
they all go in sailing-boats and do tawashing according to the
state and their financial condition of each of them. They also have
a custom, ~~which~~ you have pointed out that the
first tawash who boards the boat has the right and no one
has the right to board the diving boat, as long as he is ~~dealing~~
with its owner, on the lot, he has, before he disembarks and leave
the boat. At the observance of this condition the petty tawash
who have not got big capitals ~~to~~ gain some thing which God
will be able to give them. When they purchase anything they take it to the
richest merchants who ~~xxx~~ have a bigger dealing and sell them
what ever they get on that day, because they cannot keep what
they have purchased, which if they were to ~~do~~ with the intention
of getting more price for them they will not be able to make
purchases on the next day for the reason that they have little



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[178v] (379/434)





2
money. If tawasha is made by launches the coastal people will suffer ~~very much~~ a great deal and will be in a ^{many} ~~very~~ ^{bad} condition. Then the poverty and harm caused to them will lead them to do undesirable acts such as the defrauding of people, and stealing etc., because they will have no other alternative.

I, therefore, think that the best thing ^{and more fair to all} ~~will be~~ prohibit altogether the use of launches in tawashing which should be observed by all the big and small people, and that they should stick to their old system which is in the interest of the public and I am sure you ~~realise~~ ^{will be} ~~all that~~ ^{good self do understand}

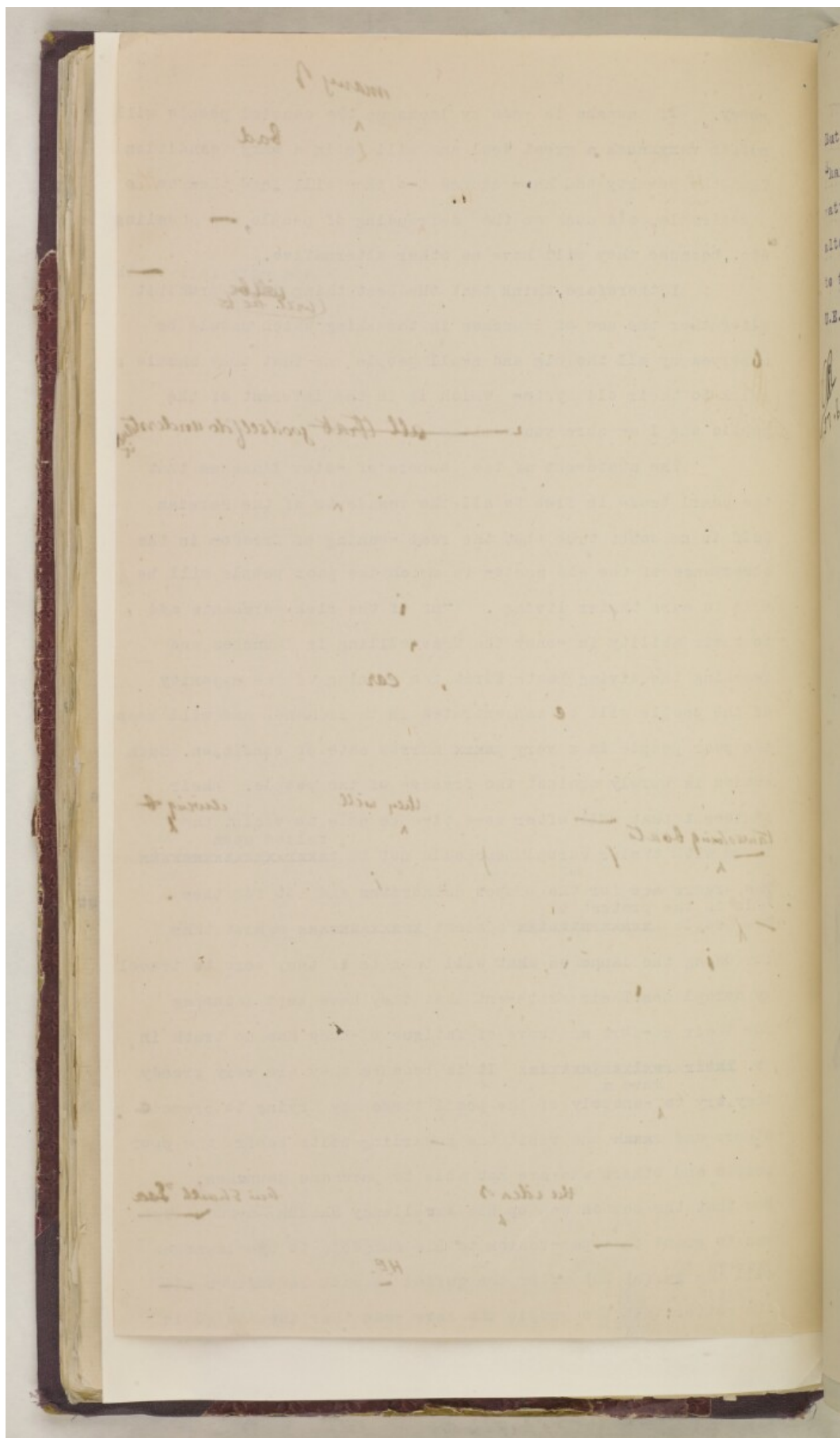
The statement of the owners of motor launches that the pearl trade is free to all the residents of the Persian Gulf is no doubt true, but the real meaning of freedom is the observance of the old custom in which the poor people will be able to earn their living. But if the rich merchants add to their ability in money the travelling in launches and reaching the diving boats first, the ~~earning~~ ^{they will} of the majority of the people will be concentrated in their hands and will keep the poor people in a very ~~very~~ narrow state of condition. Such action is surely against the freedom of the people. Their statement that ~~will~~ ^{they will} after some time be able to visit the ~~launching boats~~ ^{diving &} ~~boats~~ with their aeroplanes should not be ~~relied upon~~ ^{relied upon}

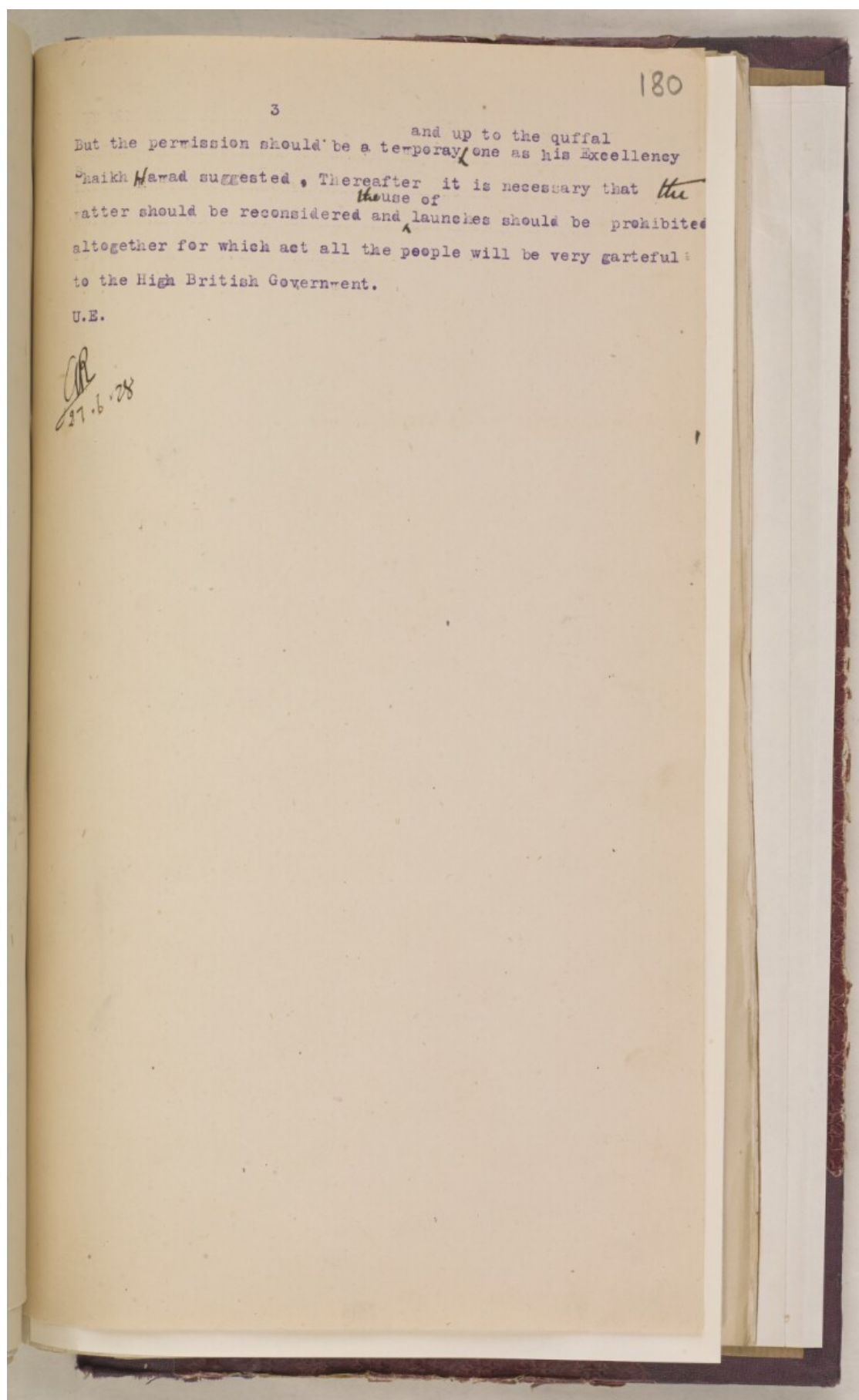
The orders are for the proper authorities and not for them. This is the protest of the people ~~against~~ ^{they will} ~~against~~ ^{diving &} ~~them~~ ^{relied upon} for using the launches, what will then be if they were to travel by aeroplanes! Their statement that they have kept launches for their comfort and save of fatigue of body has no truth in it. ~~It is because they are very greedy~~ ^{they will} ~~It is because they are very greedy~~ ^{diving &} ~~they try to~~ ^{relied upon} ~~monopoly of the pearl trade by trying to precede~~ ^{relied upon} others and ~~visit~~ ^{they will} the pearling boats before the poor people and others who are not able to purchase launches. ^{the idea is} Now that the season was up, His Excellency Shaikh Hawad ^{the idea is} was to grant the permission to his subjects to use launches till the guffal but after the guffal ^{the idea is} he will reconsider his ^{the idea is} the matter; that the people who have made their idea to go in launches will have a great difficulty in getting sailing boats suitable to their position I see no harm to their doing this.

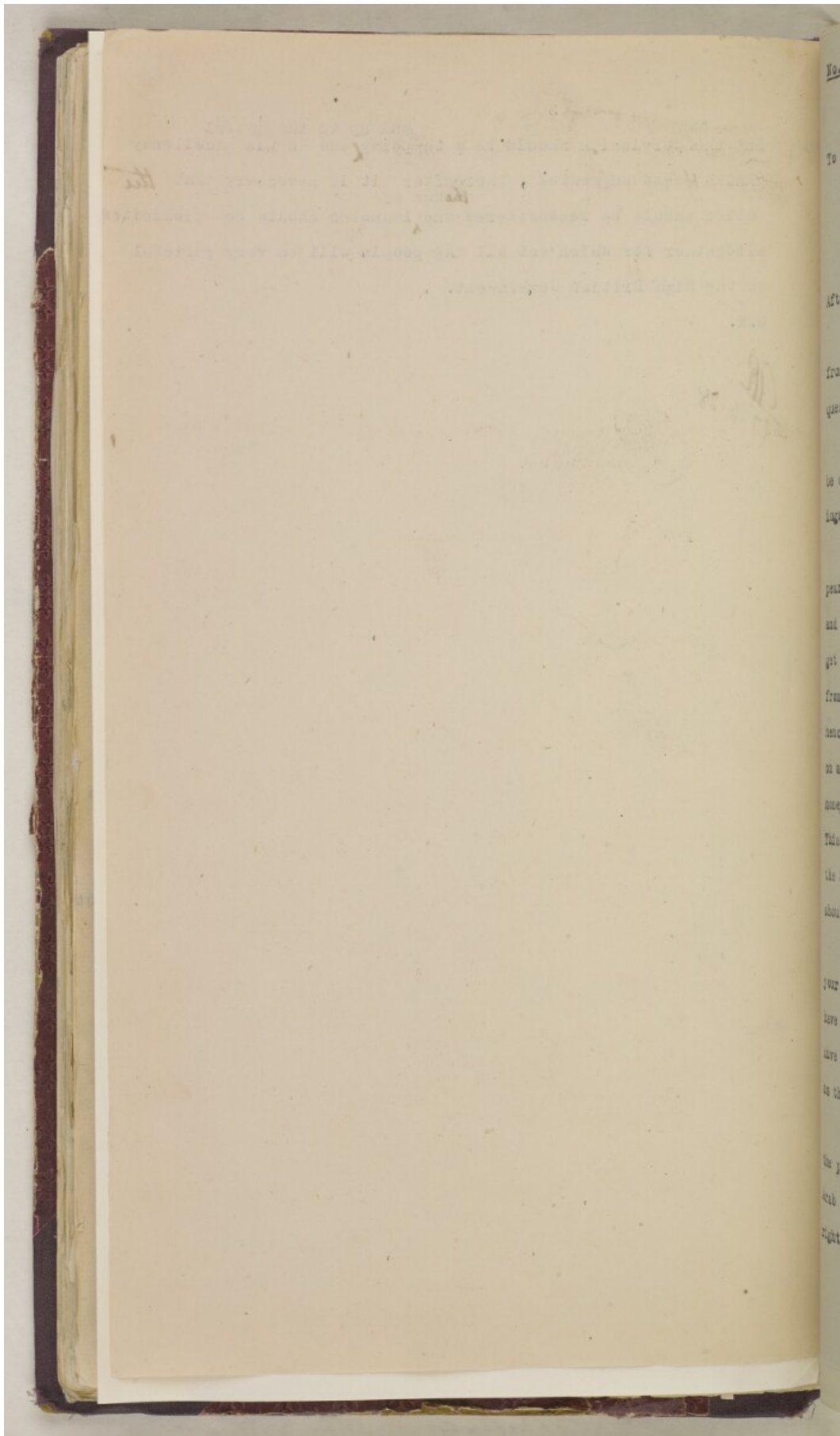
(being permitted)



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[179v] (381/434)









No. T. 7

Dated 1st August 1928.

181

To

His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah, C.S.I.,
Deputy Ruler of Bahrain.

After Compliments,

The Political Resident has received replies from the Shaikhs of Shargah and Dubai with reference to the question of the use of launches for "Tawash".

They say that the use of motor launches must be of damage to those Tawashis who borrow money for pearl dealings.

Firstly if motor launches go they reach the pearl banks sooner and the tawash will be able to purchase pearls and come back while the Tawash who is on a sailing boat will not get anything. Secondly the divers' object is to steal pearls from the Nakhudas and sell them in the banks at a low price, hence it is three years that the merchants are suffering loss on account of this action. The small merchants who borrow money from the wealthy are also suffering.

This is the opinion of Shargah and Dubai. On the other hand the Shaikh of Kuwait thinks that the use of motor launches should not be prohibited as this is a matter of ordinary progress.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident would now like your opinion as to what effect the use of motor launches will have on the pearl industry and especially whether the use will have a tendency to bring in the foreigner instead of the Arab, as the introduction of foreigners is opposed to British policy.

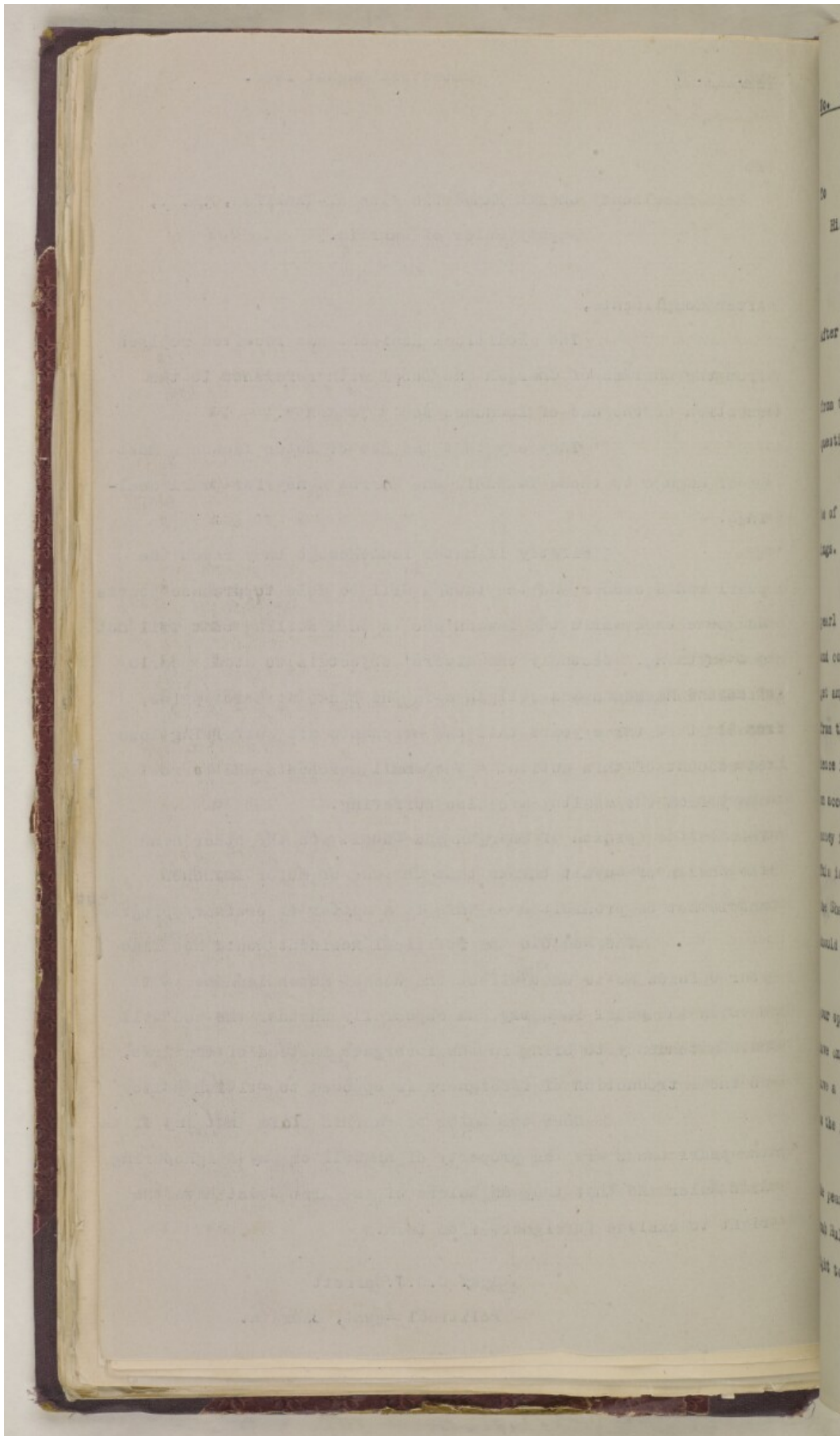
Does the Ruler of Bahrain claim that any of the pearl banks are the property of himself or any neighbouring Arab Ruler and that they as Rulers of the Arab Coast have the right to exclude foreigners from them.

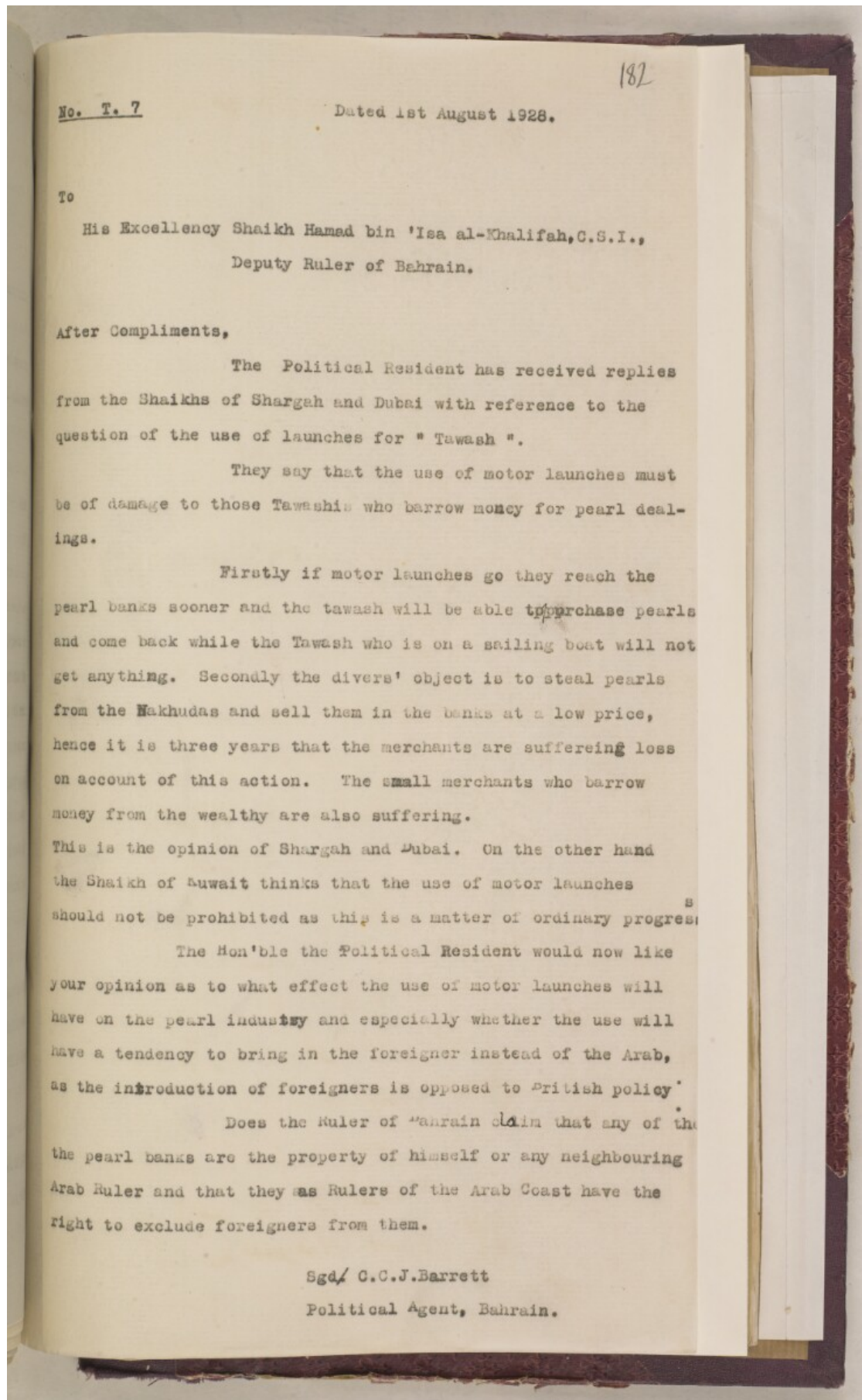
Sgd/ C.C.J. Barrett

Political Agent, Bahrain.



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[181v] (385/434)





No. T. 7

182
Dated 1st August 1928.

To

His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah, C.S.I.,
Deputy Ruler of Bahrain.

After Compliments,

The Political Resident has received replies from the Shaikhs of Shargah and Dubai with reference to the question of the use of launches for "Tawash".

They say that the use of motor launches must be of damage to those Tawashis who barrow money for pearl dealings.

Firstly if motor launches go they reach the pearl banks sooner and the tawash will be able to purchase pearls and come back while the Tawash who is on a sailing boat will not get anything. Secondly the divers' object is to steal pearls from the Hakhudas and sell them in the banks at a low price, hence it is three years that the merchants are suffering loss on account of this action. The small merchants who barrow money from the wealthy are also suffering.

This is the opinion of Shargah and Dubai. On the other hand the Shaikh of Buwait thinks that the use of motor launches should not be prohibited as this is a matter of ordinary progress.

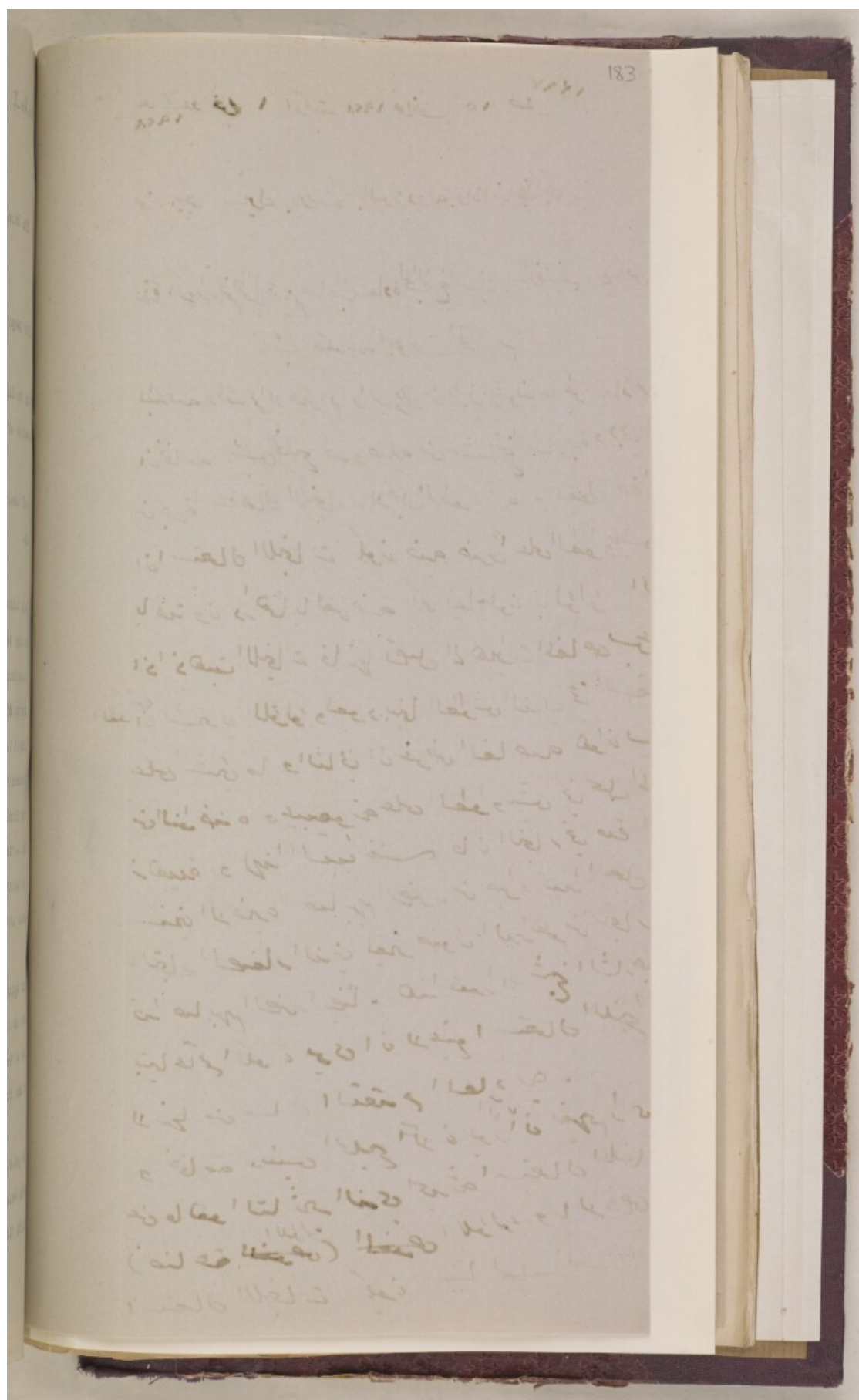
The Hon'ble the Political Resident would now like your opinion as to what effect the use of motor launches will have on the pearl industry and especially whether the use will have a tendency to bring in the foreigner instead of the Arab, as the introduction of foreigners is opposed to British policy.

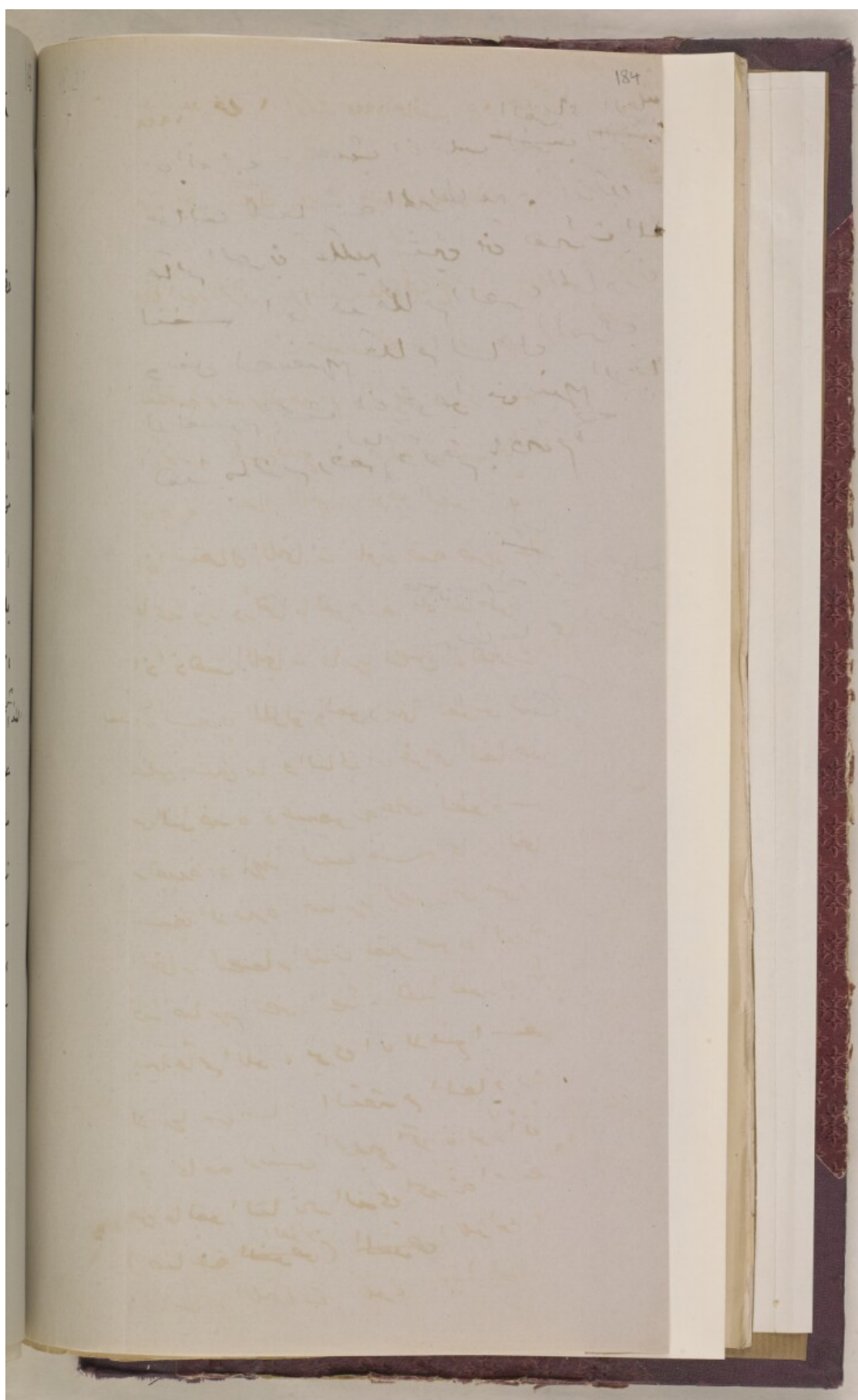
Does the Ruler of Bahrain claim that any of the pearl banks are the property of himself or any neighbouring Arab Ruler and that they as Rulers of the Arab Coast have the right to exclude foreigners from them.

Sgd/ C.C.J. Barrett

Political Agent, Bahrain.

View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100023321596.0x0000bc





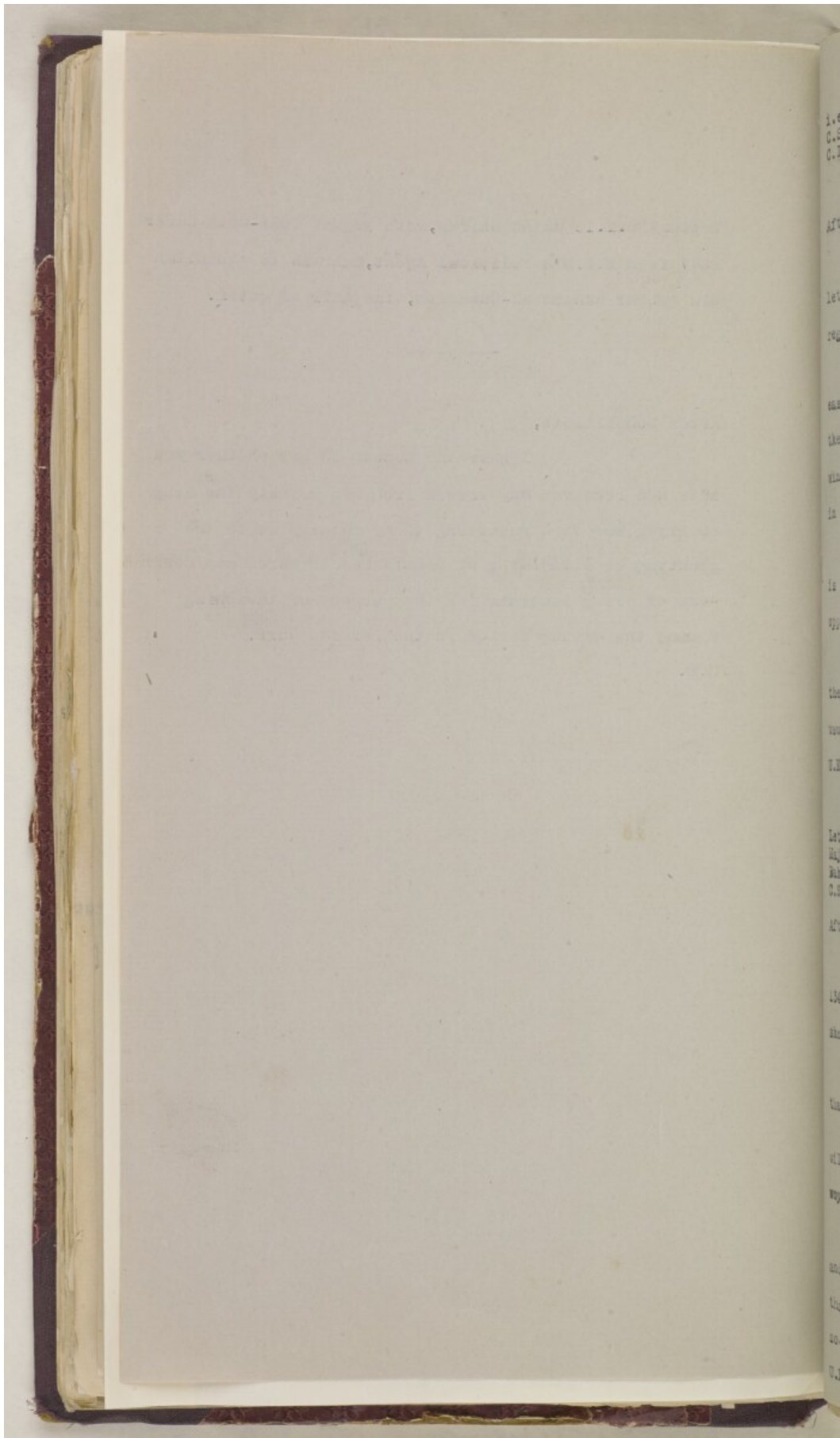


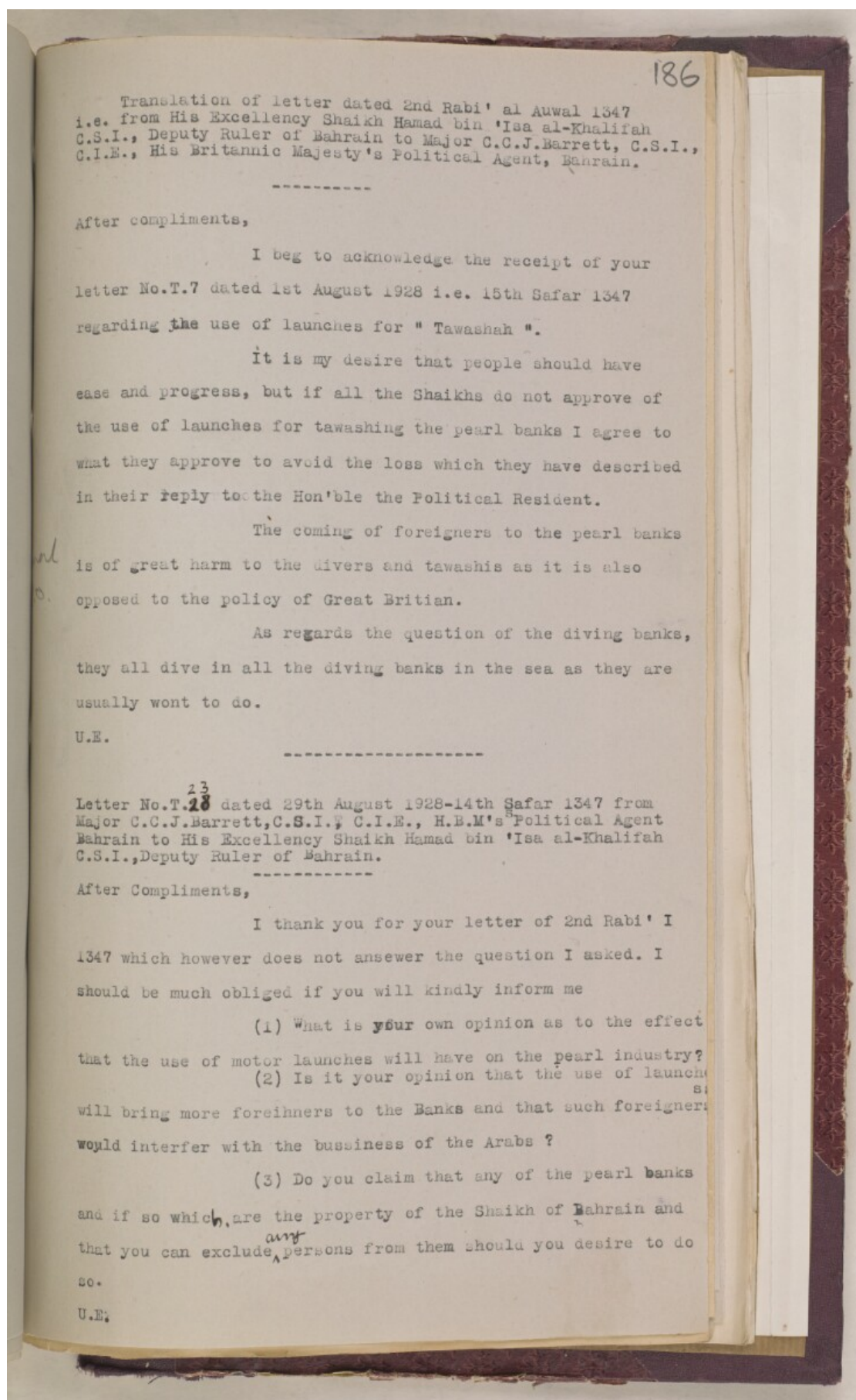
185

Letter No.T.16 dated Shiraz,15th August 1928-28th Safar
1347 from H.B.M's Political Agent,Bahrain to 'Abdullah
bin 'Abdur Rahman as-Suwallim, the Amir of Qatif.

After Compliments,

I have the honour to ask whether you
have now received any orders from His Majesty the King
of Hijaz and Najd regarding to my enquiry as to the
granting or withholding of permission to merchants desir-
-ous of using launches for the purpose of tawashing
during the diving season in the Persian Gulf.
U.E.





186
Translation of letter dated 2nd Rabi' al Auwal 1347
i.e. from His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah
C.S.I., Deputy Ruler of Bahrain to Major C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I.,
C.I.E., His Britannic Majesty's Political Agent, Bahrain.

After compliments,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter No.T.7 dated 1st August 1928 i.e. 15th Safar 1347
regarding the use of launches for "Tawashah".

It is my desire that people should have
ease and progress, but if all the Shaikhs do not approve of
the use of launches for tawashing the pearl banks I agree to
what they approve to avoid the loss which they have described
in their reply to the Hon'ble the Political Resident.

The coming of foreigners to the pearl banks
is of great harm to the divers and tawashis as it is also
opposed to the policy of Great Britain.

As regards the question of the diving banks,
they all dive in all the diving banks in the sea as they are
usually wont to do.

U.E.

Letter No.T.²³₂₈ dated 29th August 1928-14th Safar 1347 from
Major C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E., H.B.M.'s Political Agent
Bahrain to His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah
C.S.I., Deputy Ruler of Bahrain.

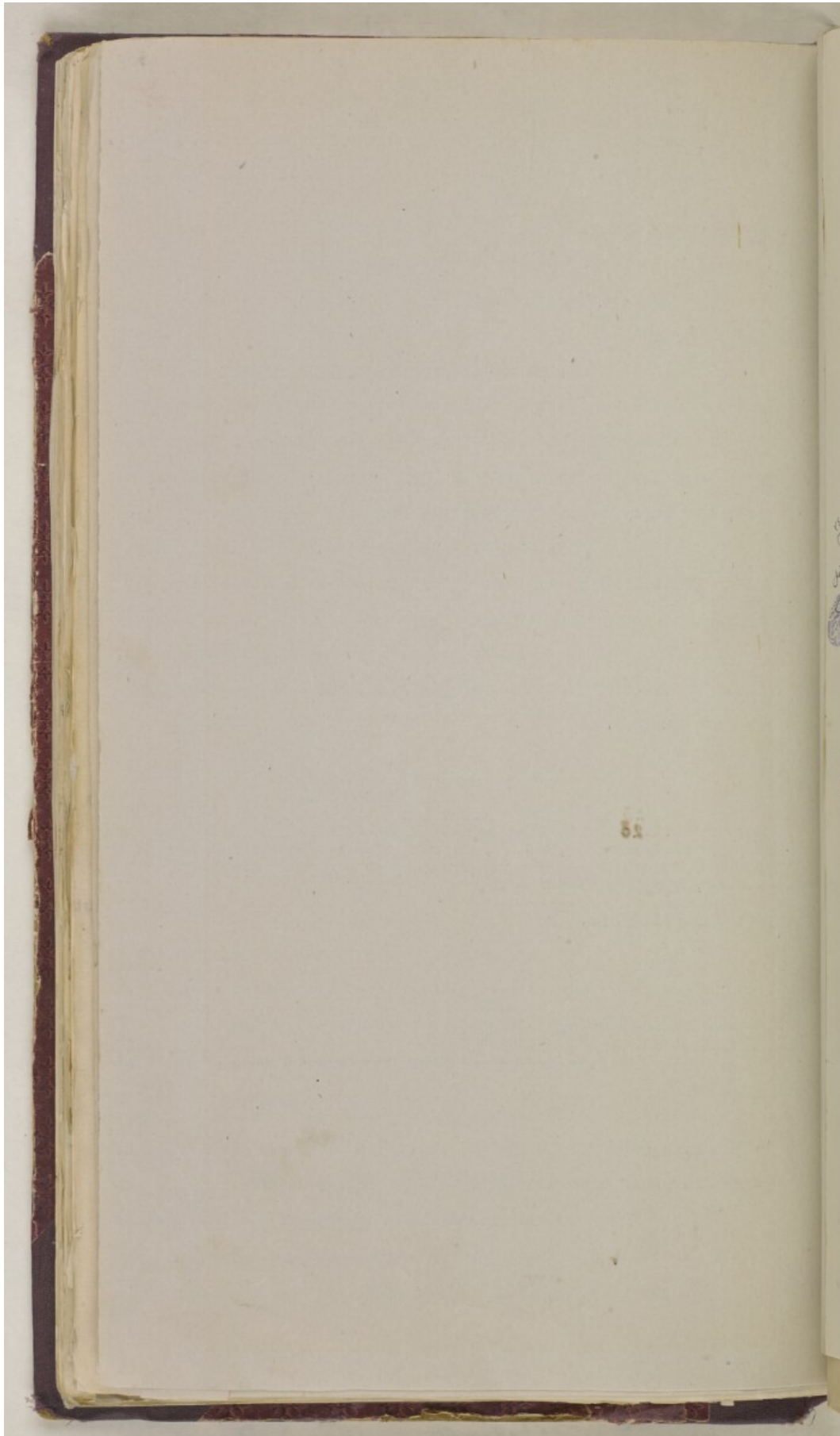
After Compliments,

I thank you for your letter of 2nd Rabi' I
1347 which however does not answer the question I asked. I
should be much obliged if you will kindly inform me

(1) What is your own opinion as to the effect
that the use of motor launches will have on the pearl industry?
(2) Is it your opinion that the use of launches
will bring more foreigners to the Banks and that such foreigners
would interfere with the business of the Arabs?

(3) Do you claim that any of the pearl banks
and if so which, are the property of the Shaikh of Bahrain and
that you can exclude any persons from them should you desire to do
so.

U.E.





187

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

من محمد بن عبد الرحمن السويدي أمير القطيف

الى حفت الاميرالبحر سادة البحر سيد بيوت البوير دولة بريطانيا في انجيه
بعد اتيه الالفة بحضرتكم اهدت كتابكم عدد ١٥١٨ في ١٥١٨ ١٥١٨ ١٥١٨ ١٥١٨
ولميه اهدت سادتكم انما الى الان لم تلق جواباً من جلالة الملك عبد العزيز بخصوص تقيت اهل
الطواشي التي هرت على سابقاً وفي تقيت استبدان من جلالتهم فنيكم وتعبوا عظيم اهدتكم

١٥١٨
١٥١٨

30/8/28

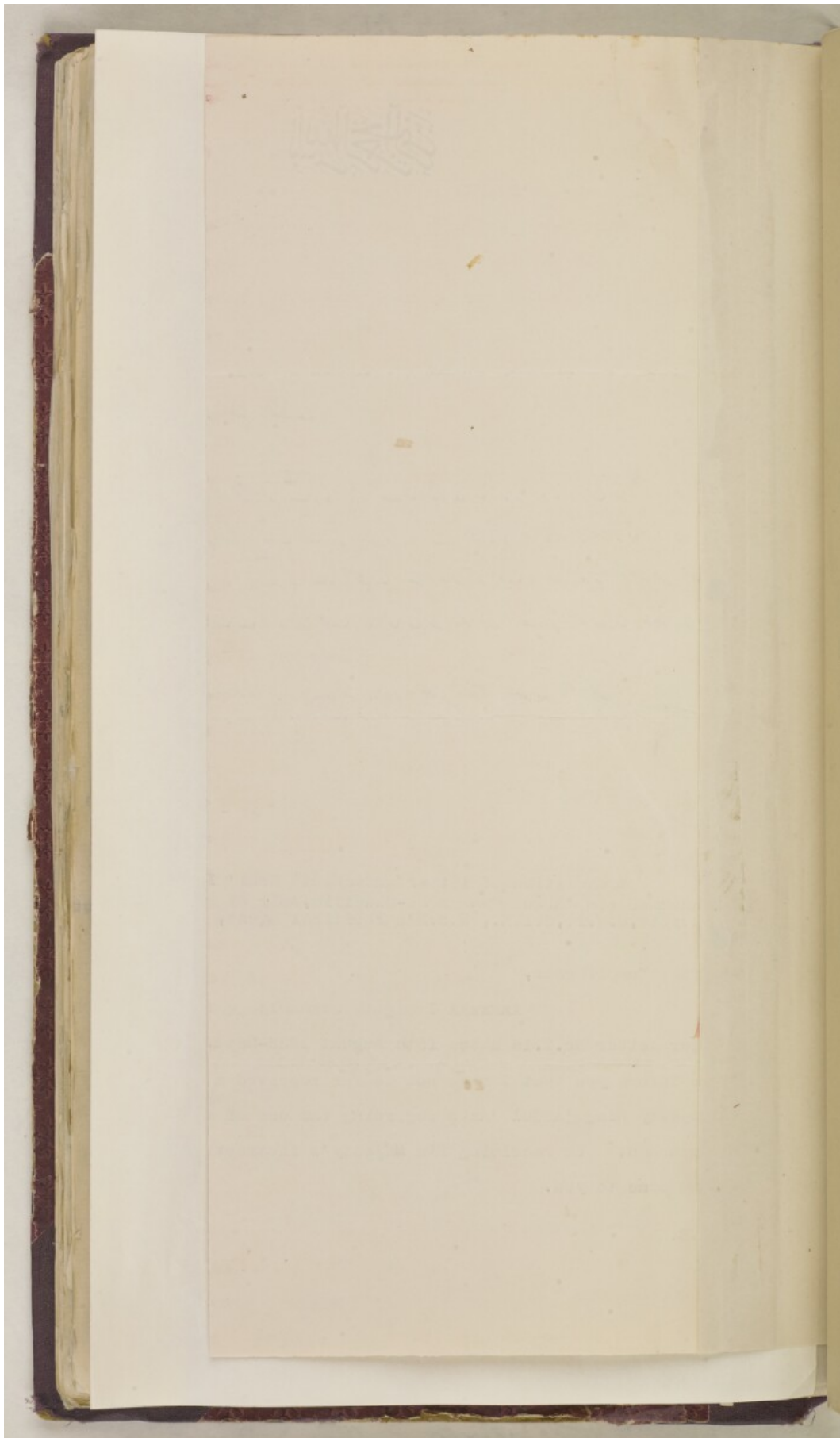
9/9/28

Translation of letter dated 12th Rabi' I, 1347-28-8-28
Muhammad bin 'Abdur Rahman as-Suwailim, Amir of Qatif to Major
Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E., H.B.M.'s Political Agent, Bahrain.

After compliments,

~~xxxxxx~~ I beg to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter No.T.16 dated 15th August 1928-28th Safar, 1347 and
to inform you that I have not so far received a reply from His
Majesty King 'Abdul 'Aziz regarding the use of motor launches, ^{asked for} which you have previously
tawashah. On receiving His Majesty's instructions I will convey the
the same to you.

U.R.





Translation of article published in the "Majalt al-Kuwait" for the months of Shawwal & Dhul Qa'dah
----- to motor launches at Bahrain. 188

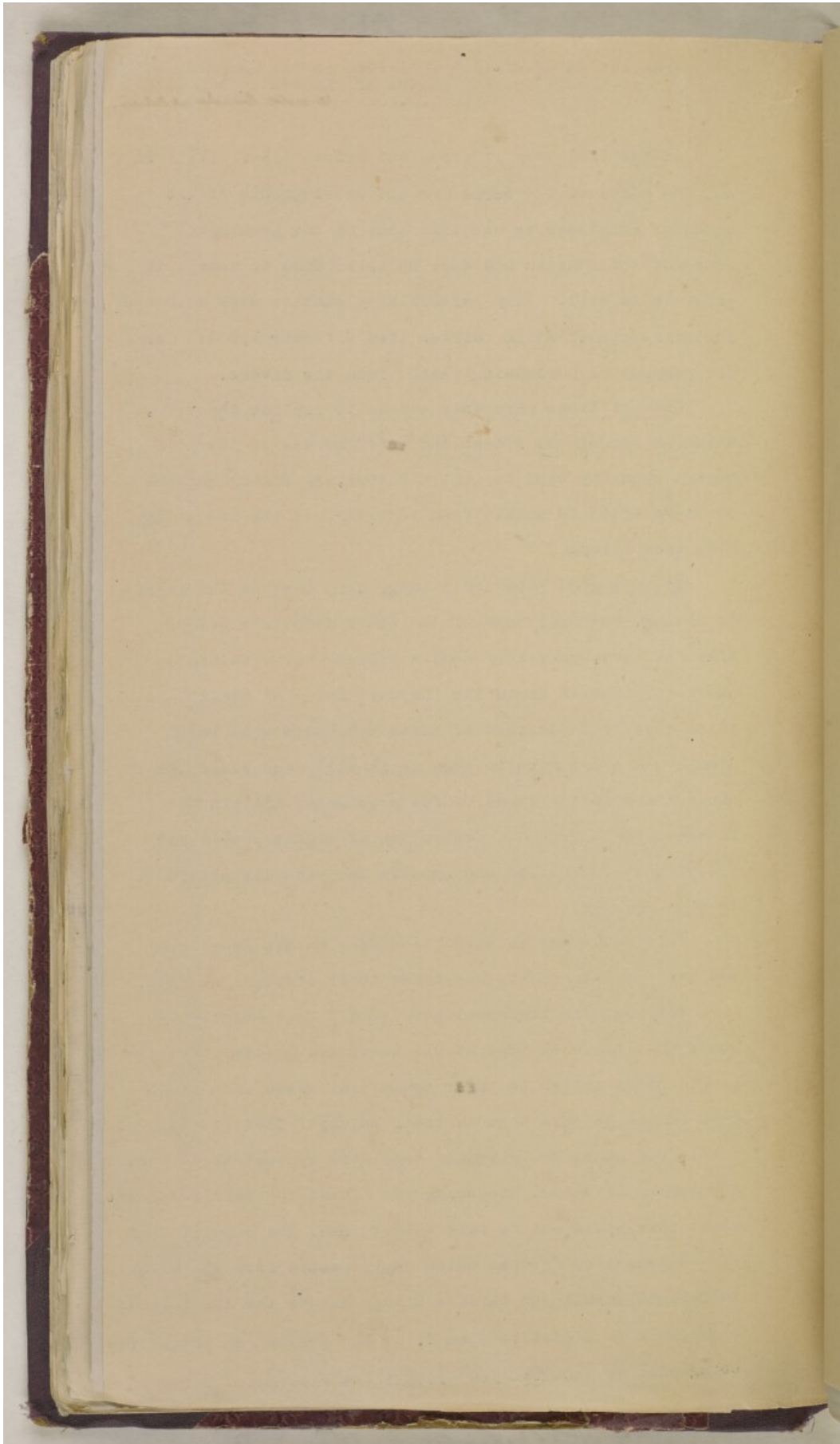
At the time when progress and reform takes place in all the parts of the world for the developments of the means of existence we see that some of the prominent merchants of Bahrain had made up their mind to make a progress as well. They particularly want to make a change in their vessels which carries them all over the sea for the purpose of purchasing pearls from the divers.

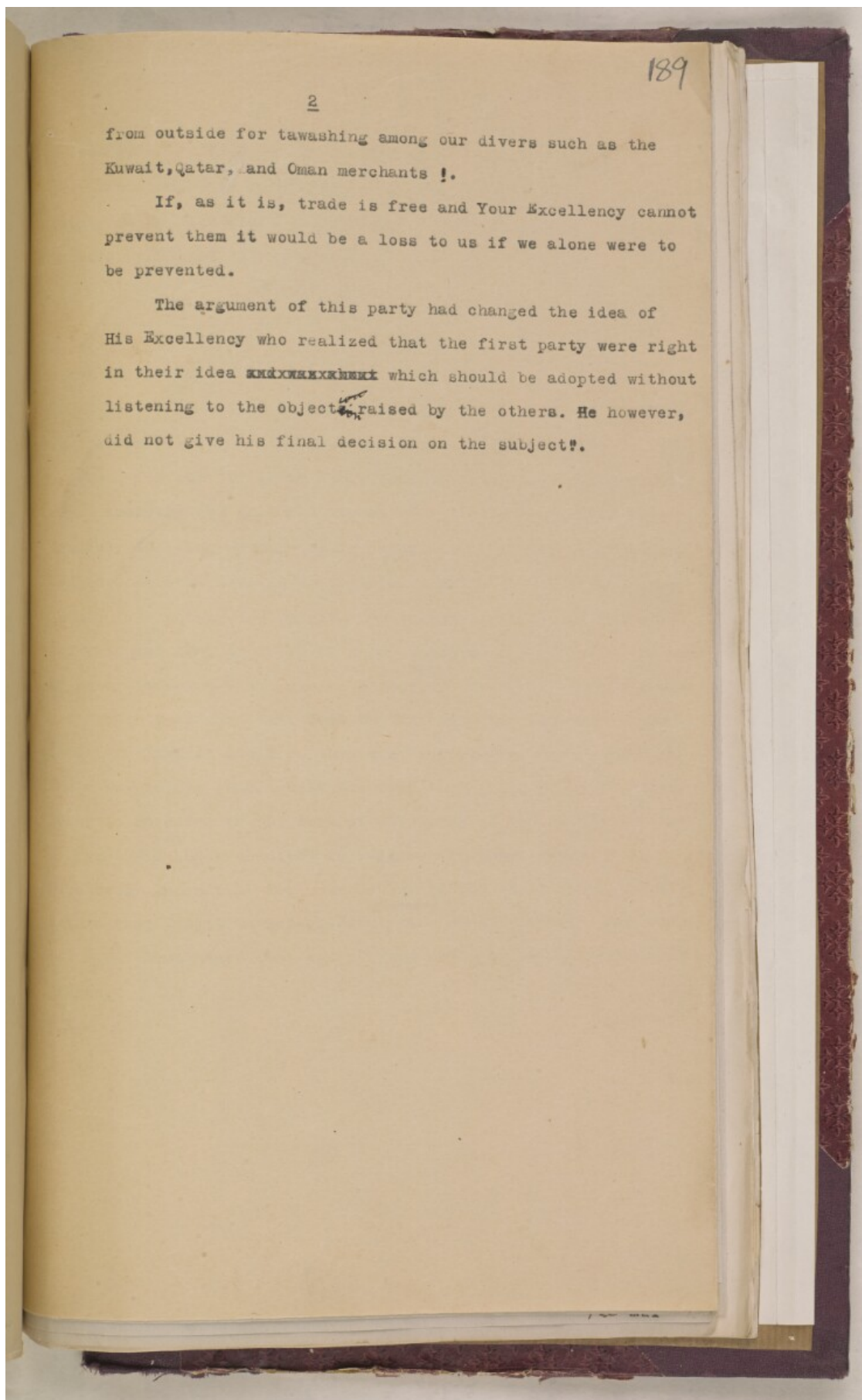
Some of those merchants wanted to replace the sail, which is one of the oldest and ~~is~~ of no use to the boat except when the wind is in its favour, by fixing engines to their boats to enable them to travel in the sea at any time they liked.

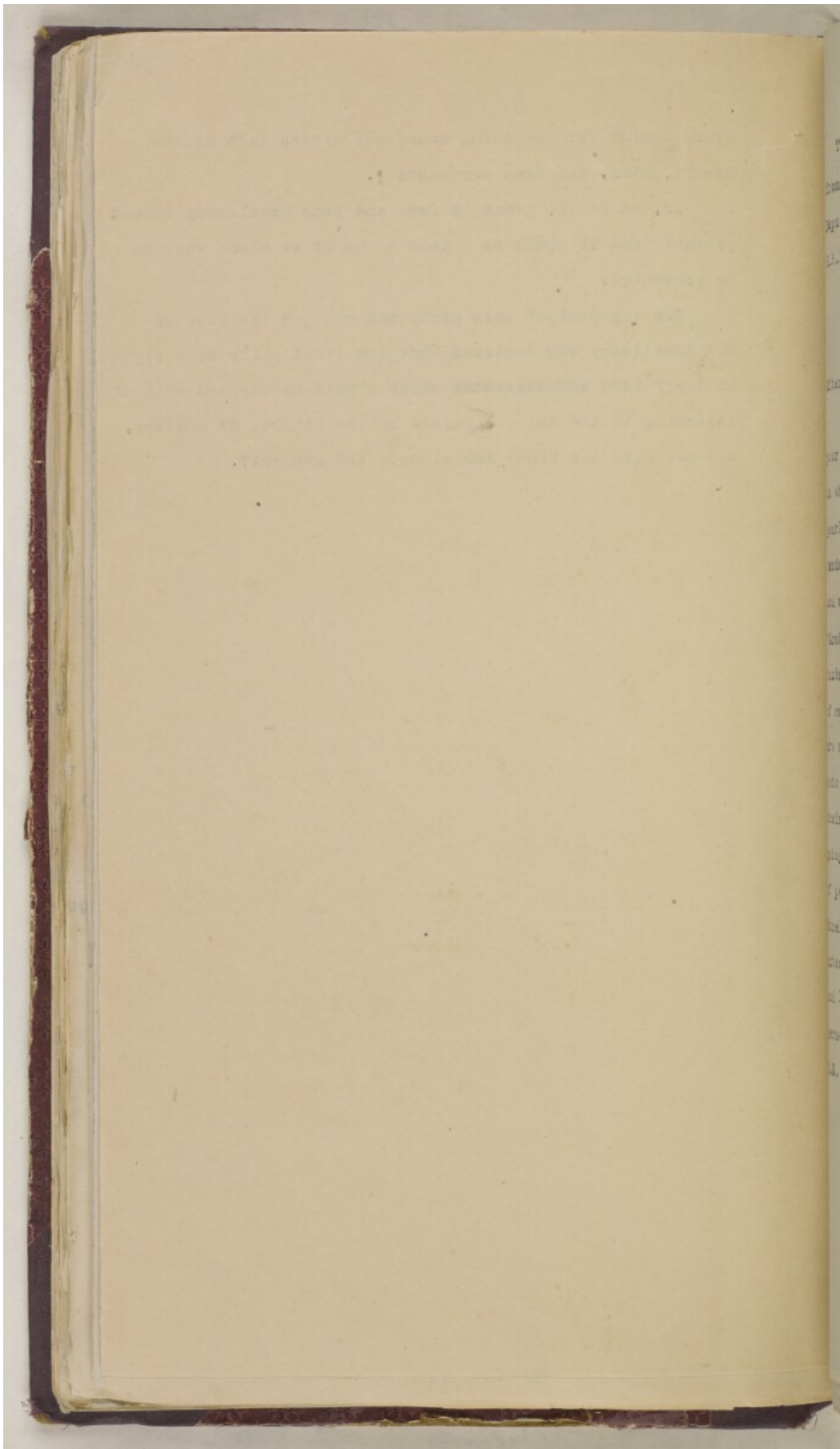
It is a good idea and a large step towards the reform of diving. However, some of the other merchants did not like the idea, hence they made a representation to His Excellency Shaikh Hamad the (Deputy) Ruler of Bahrain to the effect that the idea of those merchants will be of damage and great harm to them as it will also place the whole trade in the hands of few merchants. That in the interest of justice and protection of rights, people who are of the same nation and observe the same law, should be treated equally.

This was about to have its effect on His Excellency had not the other party explained their stronger reasons.

They said to His Excellency that " Your Excellency knows that trade is free at all times and places. That the people still differ in their commercial views and the way they choose to take them to their objects. That it would be unfair for us to be prevented from what we want to do toward the reform of trade. Supposing you listen to their complaint about this, would ^{it} not be fair then to hear the complaint of the owners of ferries which carry people from Muharraq to Manamah, should you build a bridge across the two islands because it is a loss to them ?. If you prevent us today from doing what we want can you prevent the foreigners who come







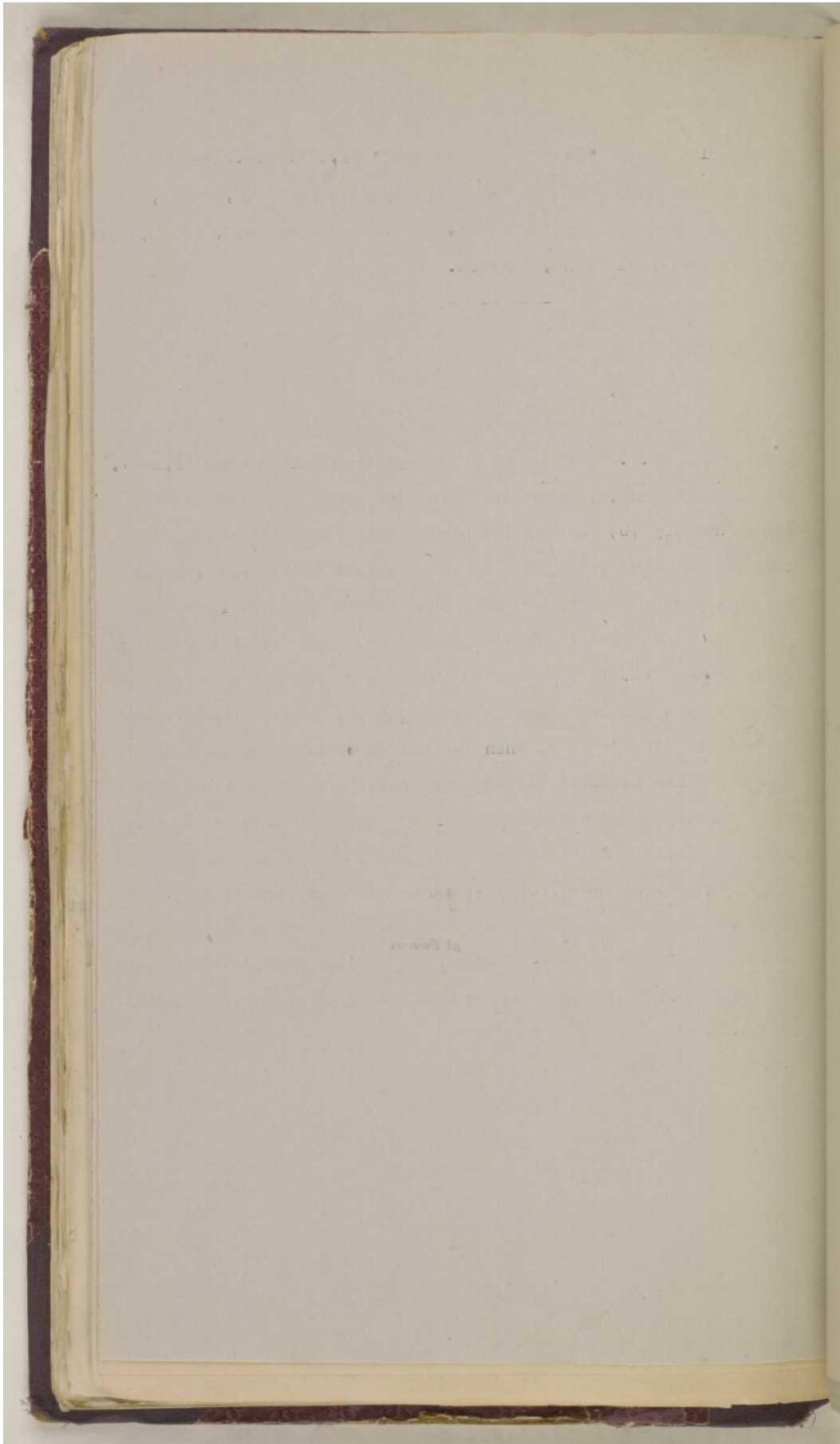


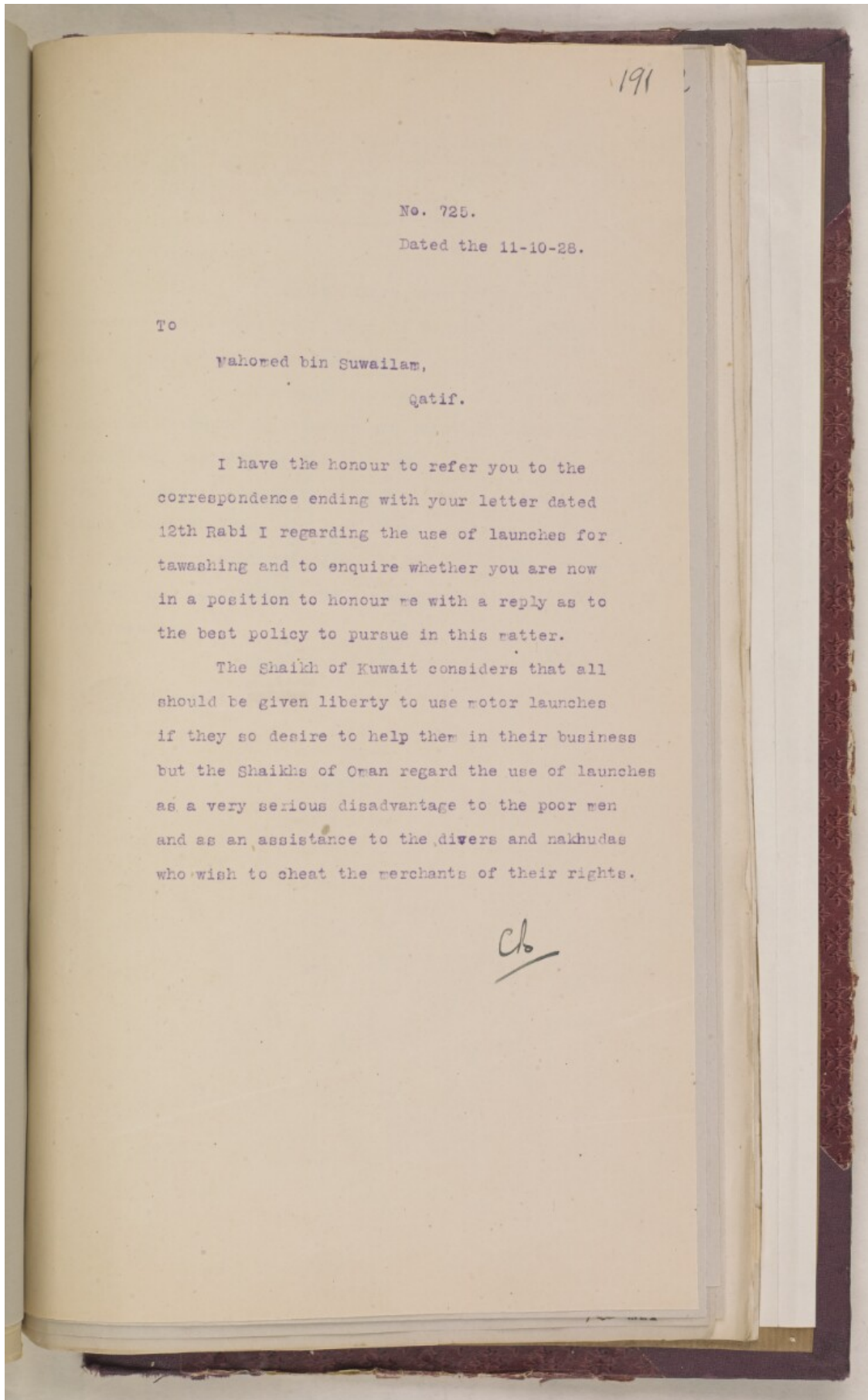
190

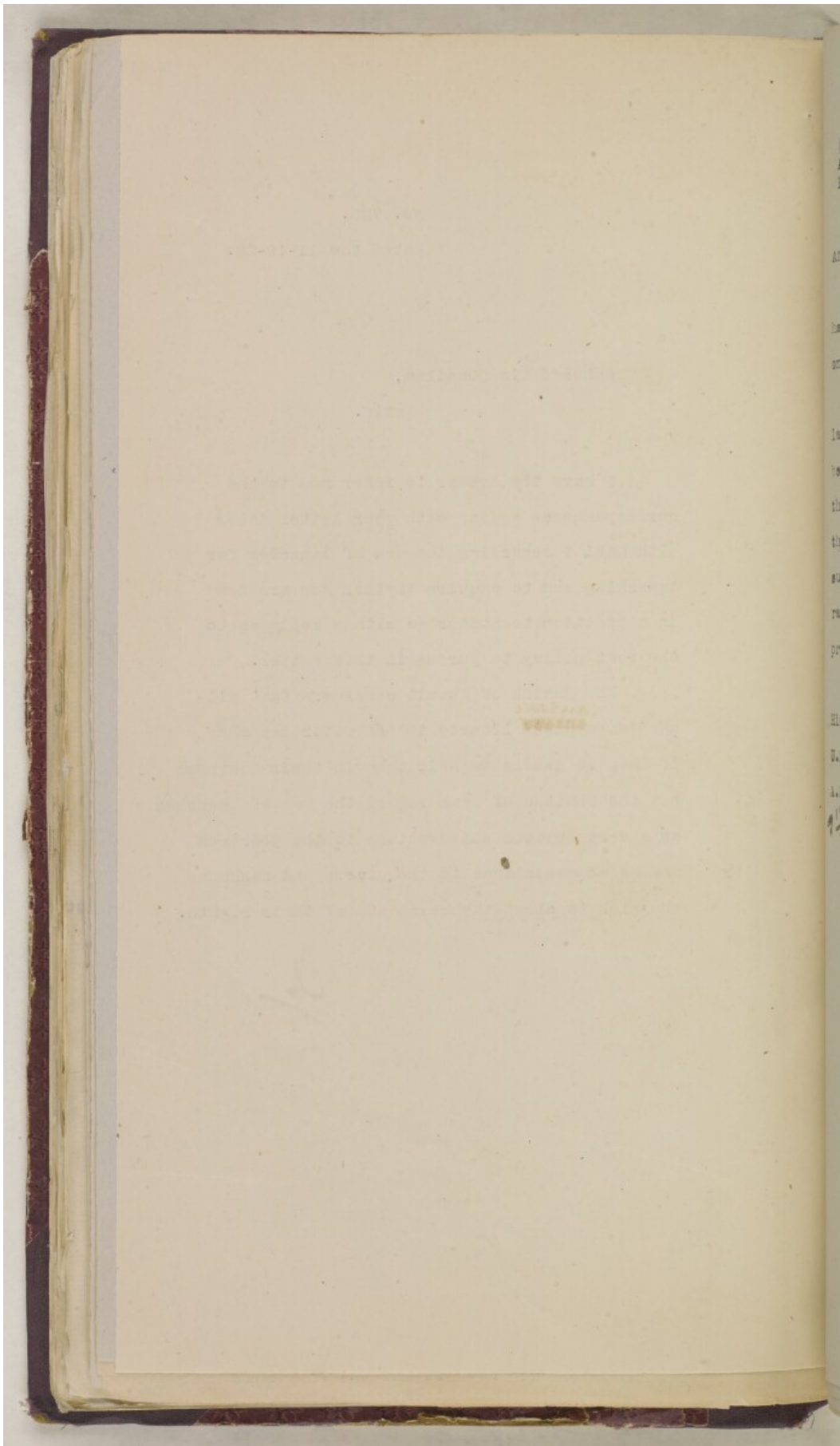
Translation of letter dated 3rd Rabi' II, 1347 i.e. 18-9-28
from His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah, C.S.I.,
Deputy Ruler of Bahrain to Lieut. Colonel C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E
H.B.M.'s Political Agent, Bahrain.

After compliments,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter No.T.23 dated the 29th August 1928-14th Rabi' I, 1347,
in which you ask (a) about the affect of motor launches on the
pearl industry (b) whether the use of motor launches will have
tendency to bring foreigners in large number to the pearl banks
and whether such foreigners will interfere in the affairs of the
'Arabs (c) whether the Bahrain Government claim any of the pearl
banks as ~~xxx~~ ^{their} own. In reply to which I beg to say (a) that the use
of motor launches will have an affect ^{only} on the small merchants who
are not able to use them. ~~When~~ the use of motor launches comes
into force ~~xxx~~ it would be very easy for the foreigners to find
their way to the pearl banks, and when they do so they are surely
going to interfere in the work of the Arabs as far as the purchase
of pearls ^{at sea} is concerned. (c) As regards the pearl banks, Your
Excellency knows that for many centuries the pearl banks, which
extend from Kuwait to Rus-al-Jibal ^{at Oman,} were common between the divers
and I have not heard that any of them belonged to any particular
person.
U.E.









192

Translation of letter dated 21st Jamad ath-Thani 1347-
(i.e. 4-12-20) from Muhammad bin 'Abdur Rahman as-Suwaylim
Amir of Qatif to Lieut-Colonel C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
H.B.M.'s Political Agent, Bahrain.

After compliments,

I beg to inform your Excellency that I
have now received a reply from His Majesty King 'Abdul 'Aziz
on the subject of motor launches.

His Majesty considers the use of motor
launches as means of progress and velocity which are of
beneficial facility to all the people. That in addition to
this His Majesty is of opinion that the people are free in
their trade business and that it is necessary to encourage
such sort of useful things which are of benefit to the people
rather than to stand in the way and prevent the people from
progressing.

This is the reply which I received from
His Majesty as an ~~answer~~ ^{answer} to your query.

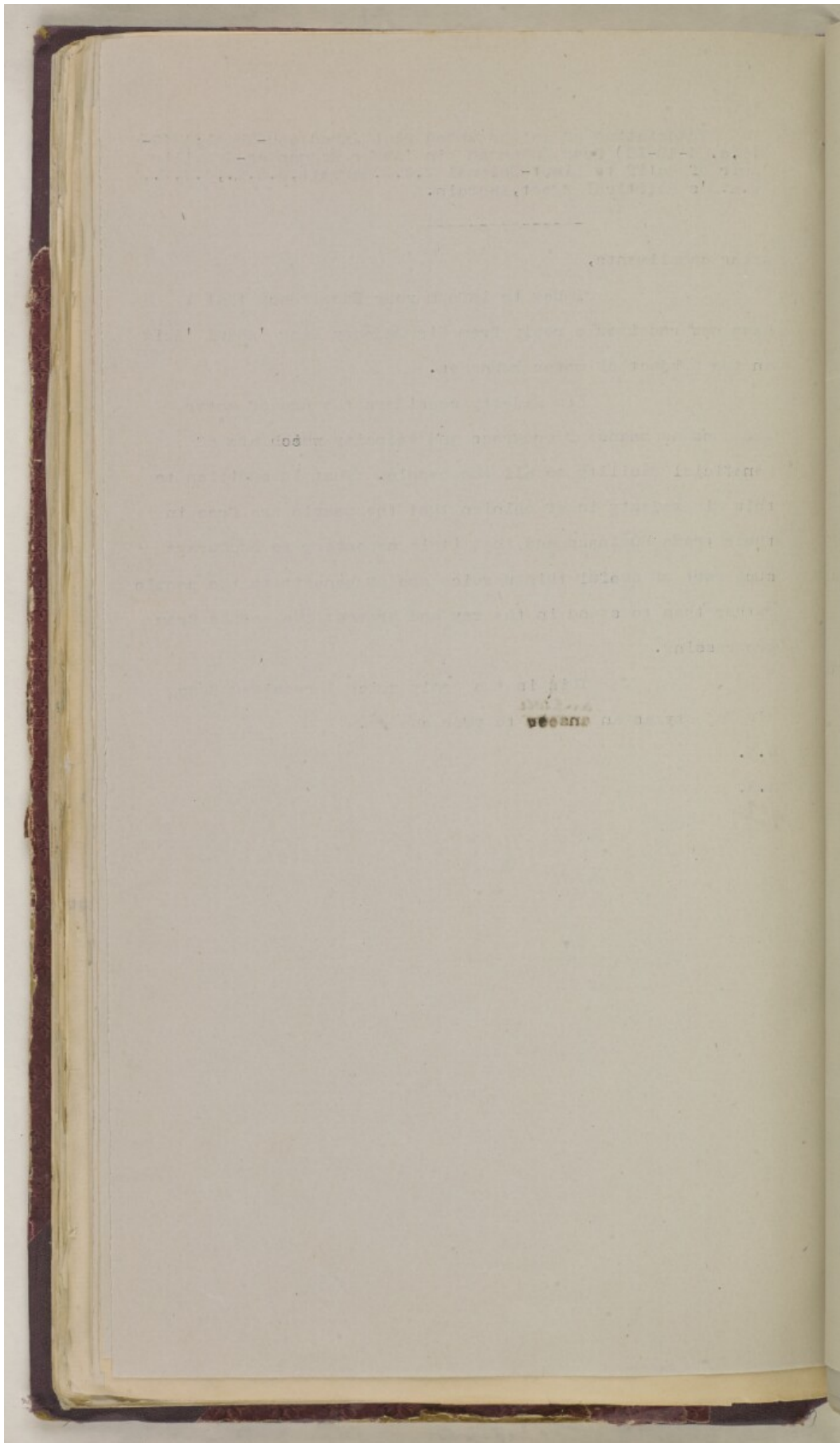
U.E.

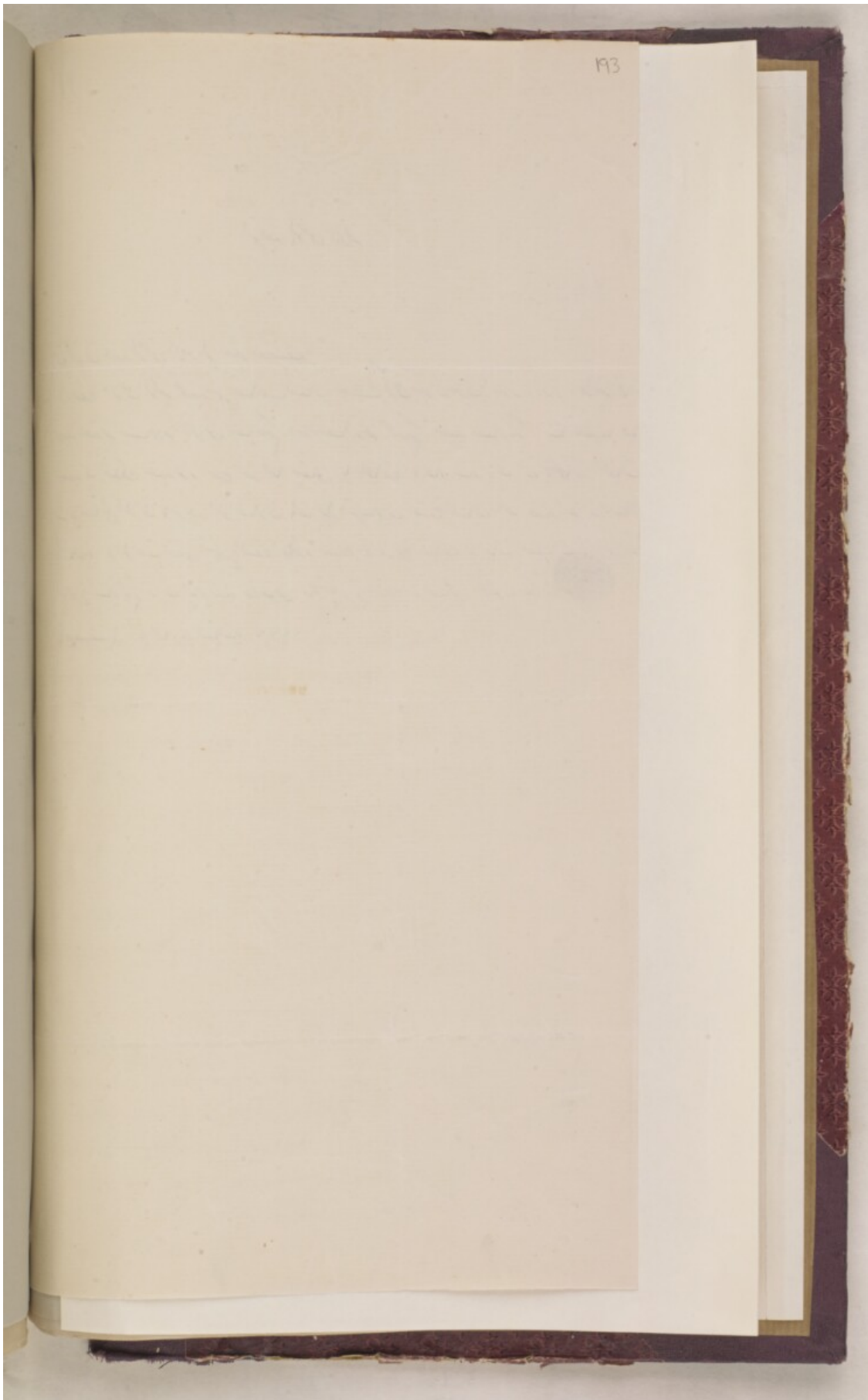
A.R.

9/12
28



'File 9/5 Bahrain Reforms. Reforms in Pearling and Boat Registration'
[192v] (407/434)



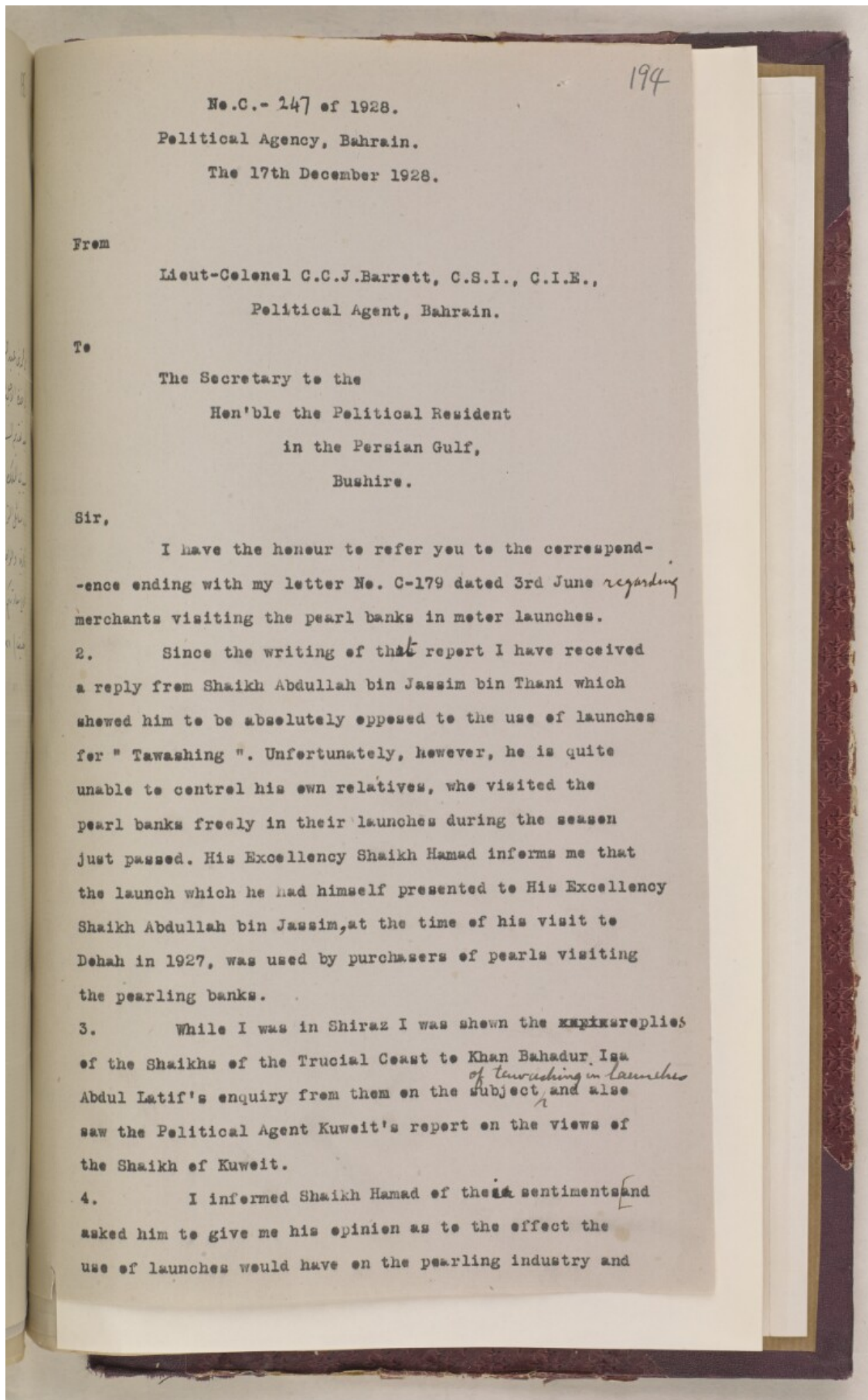




193

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من محمد بن عبد الرحمن الهمداني أمير القطيف
إلى خفة الأهل الأتم محمد بن صاحب السعادة لفتت كثر سيرل بوزة. البوزة دولة بعلانية في البحر الأحمر
لعبه لقدم السلام المرفق بمقامكم دركسفا رغبتمكم نفي سعادتم اننا تلقينا جواباً من جلالة
سيدي الملك عبد العزيز الخف الله فيما يتعلق بالنجاة وعلالته يرى ان أعمال النجات في الخليج سيدي
من مسائل الرقي وسرعة المواصلات التي في تسييلات قضية للناس عامة فضلاً عن الناس عازلة في شئون
التجارة والواجب لفضي بجميع هذه الأمور الفقيه في رفائق الناس لآفاته القضاة في طرق قدرة فلهذا اجبنا
الآن سعادتم رأي جلالة بخصوص ما تفسرتم عنه وتفضلوا بقبول الهمداني
إعطيف | ٢١ جمادى الثانية ١٣٤٧



194
No.C.- 247 of 1928.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

The 17th December 1928.

From

Lieut-Colonel C.C.J.Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Political Agent, Bahrain.

To

The Secretary to the

Hon'ble the Political Resident

in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

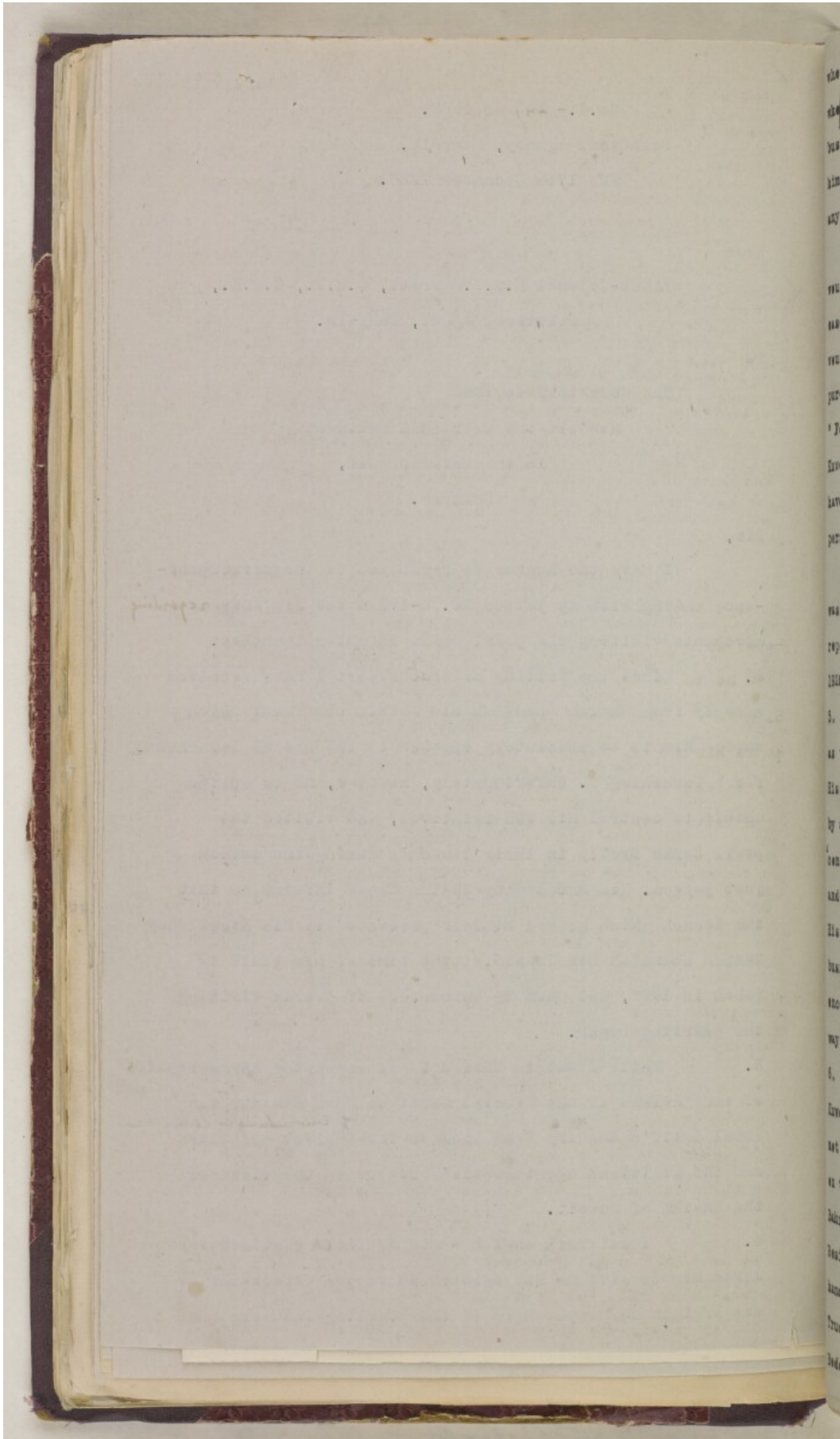
Sir,

I have the honour to refer you to the correspond-
-ence ending with my letter No. C-179 dated 3rd June *regarding*
merchants visiting the pearl banks in meter launches.

2. Since the writing of that report I have received
a reply from Shaikh Abdullah bin Jassim bin Thani which
shewed him to be absolutely opposed to the use of launches
for "Tawashing". Unfortunately, however, he is quite
unable to control his own relatives, who visited the
pearl banks freely in their launches during the season
just passed. His Excellency Shaikh Hamad informs me that
the launch which he had himself presented to His Excellency
Shaikh Abdullah bin Jassim, at the time of his visit to
Dehah in 1927, was used by purchasers of pearls visiting
the pearling banks.

3. While I was in Shiraz I was shown the ~~replies~~
of the Shaikhs of the Trucial Coast to Khan Bahadur Iqbal
Abdul Latif's enquiry from them on the subject ^{of tawashing in launches} and also
saw the Political Agent Kuwait's report on the views of
the Shaikh of Kuwait.

4. I informed Shaikh Hamad of these sentiments and
asked him to give me his opinion as to the effect the
use of launches would have on the pearling industry and





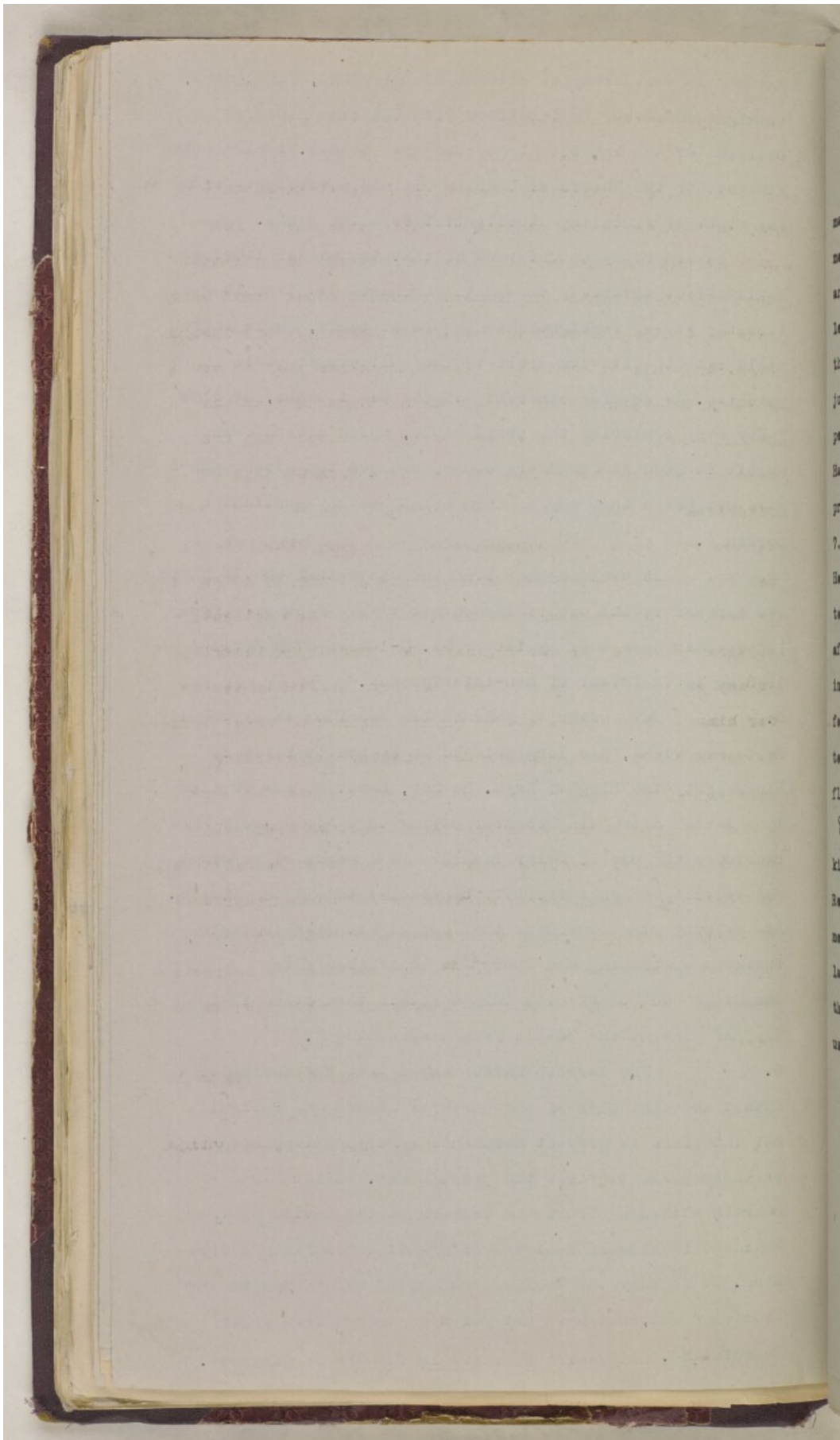
whether it was likely to attract to the banks, foreigners, 195
who might endeavour to interfere with the time honoured
business of the inhabitants of the Arab Coasts. I also asked
him whether the Rulers of Bahrain claimed sovereignty ~~over~~ or
any right of excluding undesirables from the Banks.

In reply he informed me that the use of launches
would affect adversely the small merchants and that it would
ease the way of foreigners to the pearl banks, where they
would compete with the Arabs in the business of pearl
purchase. As regards ownership of the pearl banks, he says
" For many centuries the pearl banks, which extend from
Kuweit to RUUS AL JABAL are common between the divers and I
have not heard that any of them belong to any particular
person ".

It would appear from the above that Shaikh Hamad
was opposed to the use of launches but as a fact as already
reported in para 4 of my letter No. C-148 of 27th April
1928 he is in favour of non-interference.

5. The answer of Mahomed bin Suwailum to my enquiry
as to his views, was long delayed as he had to refer to
His Majesty the King of Nejd. He has, however, now replied
by a letter dated 4th December saying that His Majesty
" considers the use of motor launches as a means of progress
and velocity and as a facility beneficial to all the people.
His Majesty also considers that people are free in their
business of trading and that ~~it~~ is necessary to
encourage such beneficial things rather than stand in the
way and prevent the people from progressing ".

6. The correspondence shows that the Shaikh of
Kuweit and the Ruler of the ports of JUBAIL and QATIF will
not interfere to prevent merchants employing launches based
on their ports to visit the pearl banks. Shaikh Hamad of
Bahrain although willing to conform to the advice of the
Resident is himself desirous of granting merchants a free
hand. It is only the backward rulers of QATAR and the
Trucial Coast, who have not yet been weaned from their
Beduinism". that desire to stand in the way of progress.
The m...





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The British Government are interested in this matter only as far as mechanical facilities may attract more foreigners to the Gulf pearl trade. All improvements and facilities conducing to make a visit to the pearl banks less of an arduous business have this tendency, but though this fact must be admitted I do not consider that it would justify our attempt to exclude meter launches from the pearl banks, especially as the Rulers of Kuwait and the Hasa ports have shown that they welcome them as signs of progress.

7. In the circumstances I recommend that, if the Hon'ble the Political Resident approves, I may be authorised to inform His Excellency Shaikh Hamad that the Resident, after enquiry in the matter, does not propose to restrict in any way the freedom of each individual ruler to decide for himself whether he should permit the use of meter launches to merchants using his ports for visiting the pearling fleets.

8. I have the honour to request that you will kindly obtain the early orders of the Hon'ble the Political Resident in this matter as several merchants have approached me on the subject. They are desirous of building meter launches before the coming season but hesitate to complete their arrangements for fear of a general prohibition on their use.

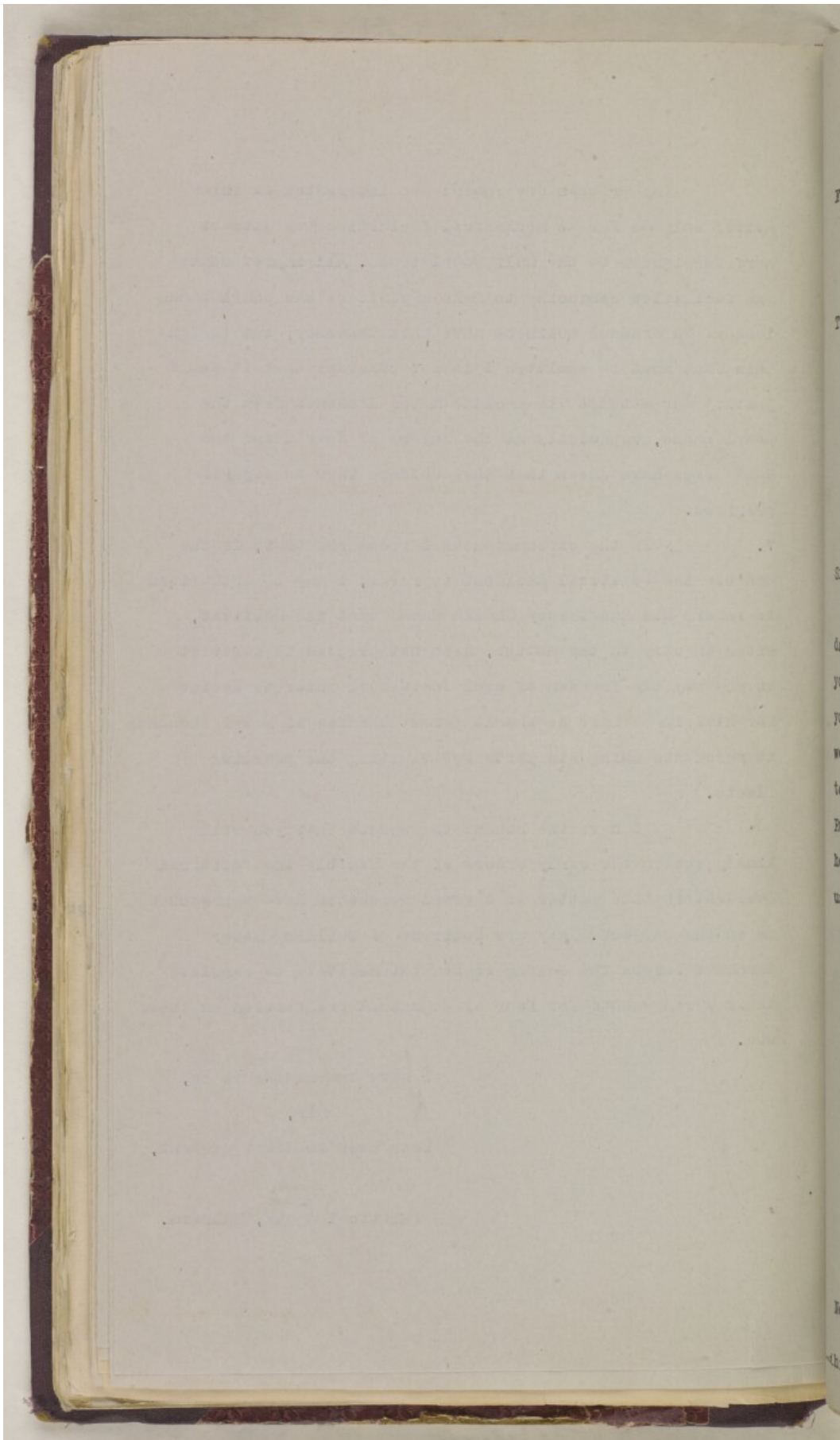
I have the honour to be,

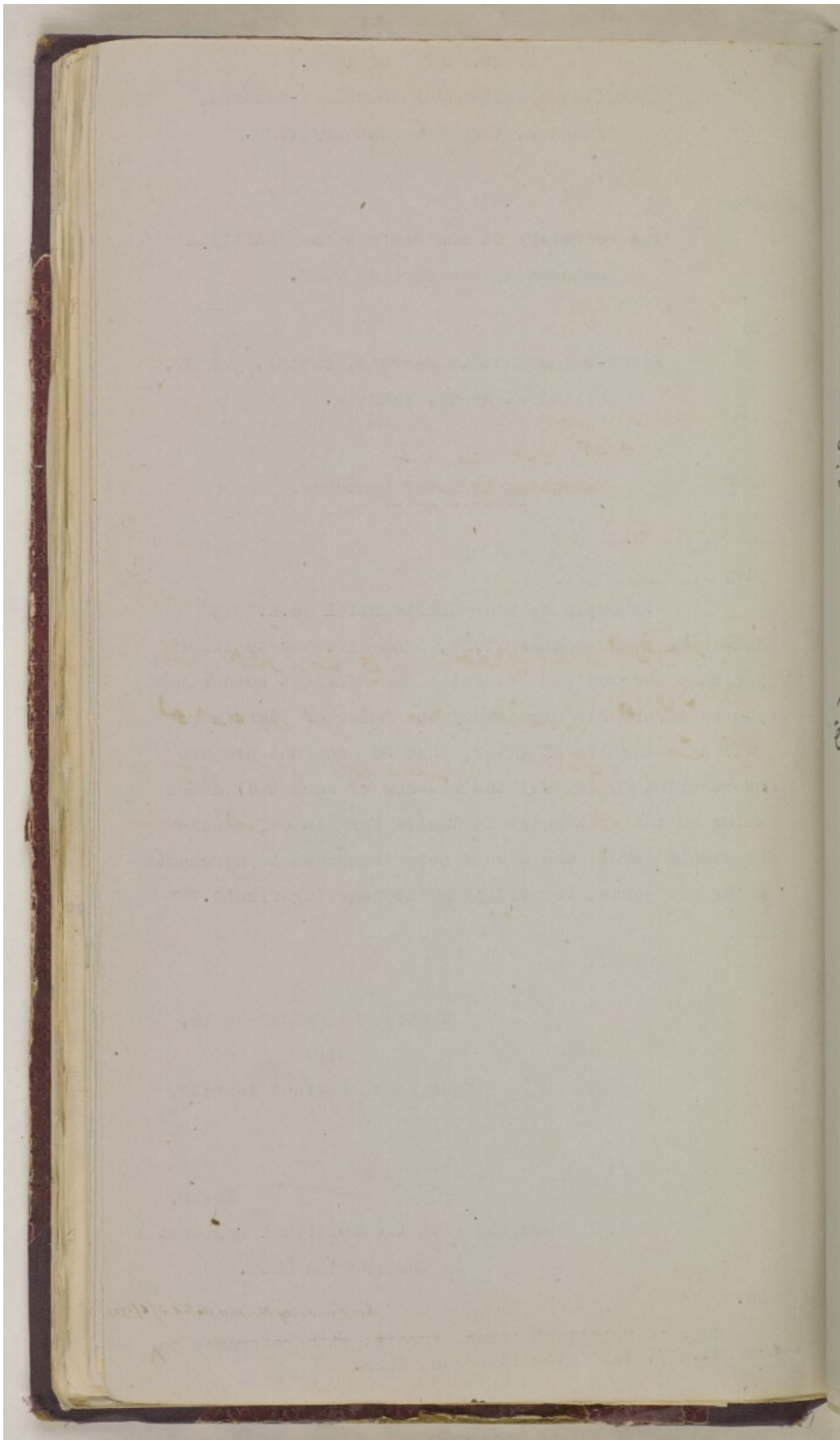
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

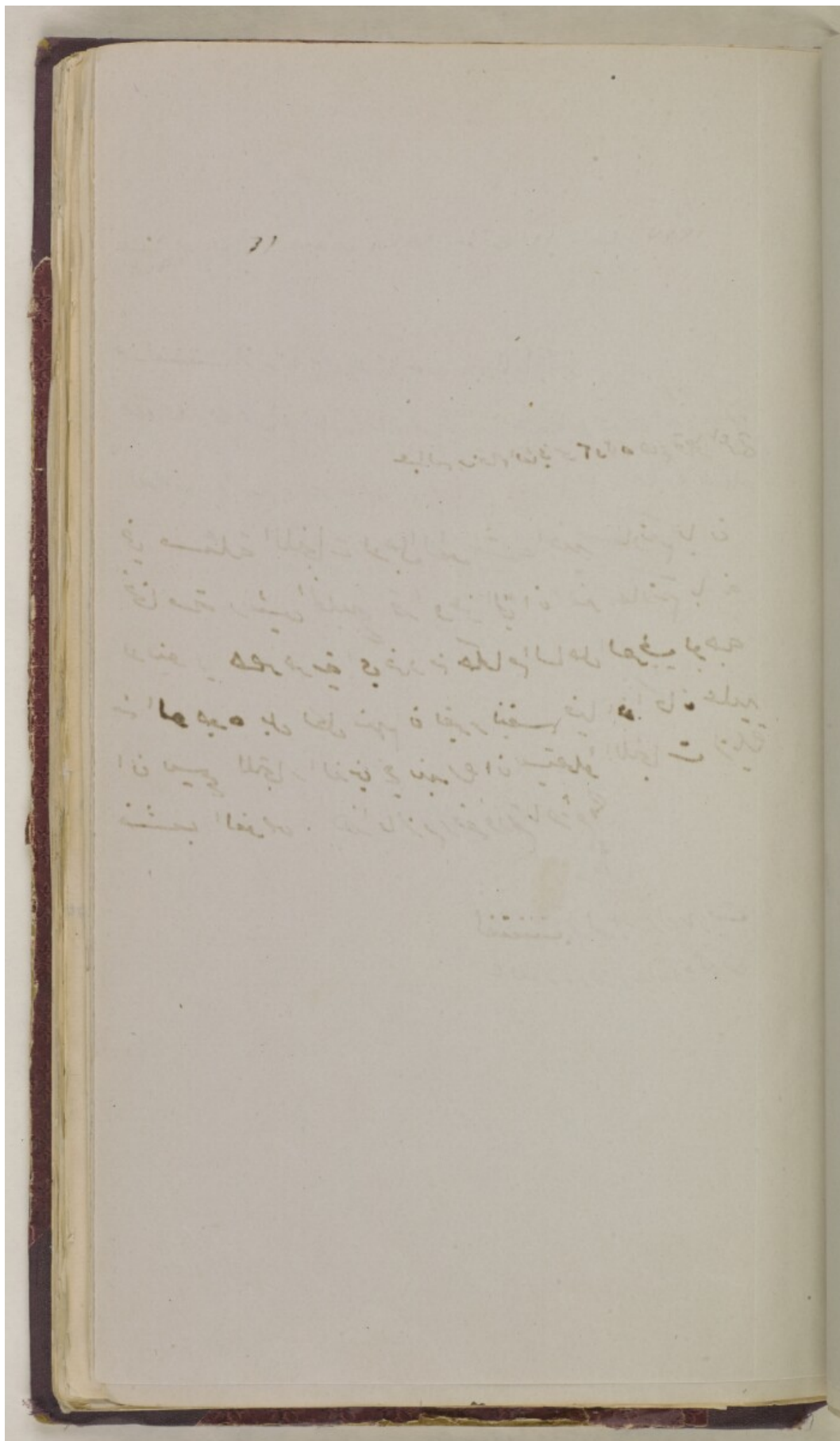
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Political Agent, Bahrain.





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Translation.

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No. 10-C

Dated the 22nd January 1929

From, Lieut-Colonel C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
H.B.M.'s Political Agent, Bahrain

To

His Excellency Shaikh Harad bin 'Isa al-Khalifah
Deputy Ruler of Bahrain C.S.I.

His Excellency Shaikh 'Abdullah bin Qasim ath-
Thani, C.I.E., Ruler of Qatar

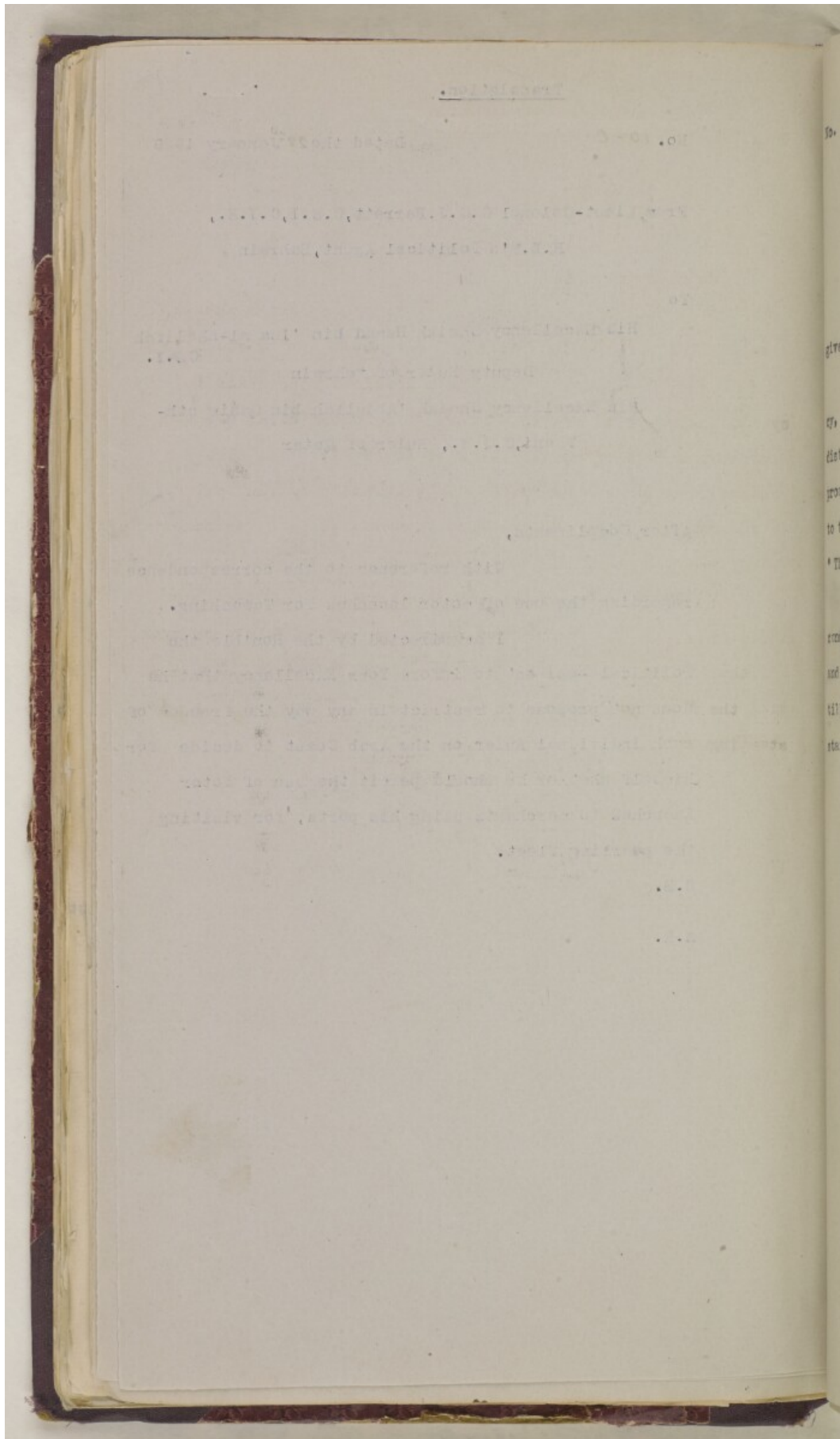
After Compliments,

With reference to the correspondence
regarding the use of motor launches for Tawashing.

I am directed by the Hon'ble the
Political Resident to inform Your Excellency that he
does not propose to restrict in any way the freedom of
each individual Ruler on the Arab Coast to decide for
himself whether he should permit the use of Motor
Launches to merchants using his ports, for visiting
the pearling fleet.

U.E.

A.R.





No. 17 C.

The Agency, Bahrain.

12th February, 1930.

My dear Colonel,

I enclose a note by Belgrave, which should give you the information you asked for about diving conditions.

I think there is a distinct retrograde tendency, and Belgrave shares this view. Shaikh Hamad has so distorted a view of the divers real interests, that when I reproached him for his weakness last year and yielding instantly to the demonstration of divers at Muharraq he said in effect "They are poor men, and it is one's duty to be generous to them

But for the continued pressure of the Agency conditions would be back where they were before Daly's reforms, and that in one season. There can be no permanent progress till the divers learn to read and write, and this they are now starting to do.

Yours sincerely

AP

